

Ethiopia arrests 3 Egyptians in Mubarak assassination bid

ADDIS ABABA (AFP) — Ethiopia has announced the arrest of three Egyptians for taking part in a bid to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak here and pinned responsibility on the Egyptian group Jamaa Islamiya.

The fundamentalist group, which tried to kill Mr. Mubarak at least twice before, had claimed responsibility for the June 26 attack in a communiqué received by AFP's Cairo bureau on July 4 which said the group's holy war would continue until "God's law" — Islamic Sharia Law — was in force in Egypt.

Egypt put the blame on Sudan for masterminding the assassination bid, which Mr. Mubarak survived unscathed as bullets bounced off his armoured limousine as he drove from the airport into the Ethiopian capital for a summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

He has escaped at least eight attempts on his life since taking power in 1981 after the assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

Ethiopia's Ministry of Internal Affairs said in a statement carried late Tuesday by the official Ethiopian News Agency that nine members of Jamaa Islamiya carried out the attack and that two other members of the group controlled the operation from outside Ethiopia.

All were Egyptian, it said. Two of the assassins were killed in the shoot-out that accompanied the ambush, along with two Ethiopian policemen, and security forces killed three more in a shoot-out about a week later.

One escaped.

One man killed in the shoot-out on July 1 was identified by the ministry as the head of the operation, Sharif Abdul Rahman.

"It has been learnt that this individual had gained wide experience by participating in planning and executing acts of terrorism in a number of countries," the statement said.

"It has been discovered that he was in charge of the Egyptian terrorists that took part in the action in Ethiopia. He played the leading and decisive role in planning the terrorist act and supervised the overall operation."

The statement named the three men arrested as Abdul Karim Al Nadi, Al Arab Sukki Hafez, and Safwat Hassan.

"Presentation of evidence supporting the charges and other legal preparations necessary to bringing them to justice are well under way," the statement said.

"The member of the terrorist squad who escaped from the country after participating in the operation has been identified as Fathi Orsraj, — real name Husain Ahmad Shahit Ali — who had been referred to in the media by another of his fictitious names, Siraj Mohammad Hussein.

"This person, together with Safwat Hassan, currently in custody, was deployed in providing logistical support like arranging for the renting of houses and cars and so on."

The two men who coordinated the attempt from abroad were, Mustafa Hamza, also known by the fictitious name Ibrahim, a member of the leadership of Jamaa Islamiya, "who from the initial stage planned, supervised and monitored the Addis Ababa assassination attempt," and Izat Yassin, one of his deputies, the ministry said.

"The Ethiopian government is undertaking the necessary efforts to ensure Mustapha Hamza, Izat Yassin and the escaped terrorist Siraj are returned to Ethiopia from the country in which they are hiding in order to face justice."

In March, 1995 an informer for the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, a key Egyptian witness in the case against blind Sheikh



Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, fifth anniversary of the invasion of Kuwait, poses in front of a picture to the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Sabah at Kuwait resolution and called for a regional security system to prevent future wars (AFP photo)

Iraq blames U.S., Kuwait for invasion

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, marking the fifth anniversary of its invasion of Kuwait Wednesday, blamed the United States and the rulers of the oil-rich Gulf state for the events of Aug. 2, 1990.

State-run newspapers carried front-page editorials hitting out at Washington with one paper saying the U.S. represented the "empire of evil" in the world.

"The responsibility for the crisis does not fall on Iraq but on America in the first place and Kuwait rulers in the second," said the government newspaper Al Jumhuriya.

It said Iraq's decision five years ago to send troops into Kuwait was "a natural reaction" to what it described as plots by both the U.S. and Kuwait against Baghdad.

But this year's official comments stopped short of declaring Kuwait as part of Iraq. During previous anniversaries, the official media, in defiant rhetoric, would still insist that Kuwait was part of Iraq.

Late last year, Baghdad recognised Kuwait as an independent state within new borders demarcated by a U.N. commission after the Gulf war.

Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait in the early hours of Aug. 2, 1990, after weeks of wrangling over oil production quotas. The Iraqi occupation lasted until a U.S.-led multinational alliance based in Saudi Arabia drove out Iraqi troops in February 1991 after a six-week war.

Jumhuriya urged Kuwait not to work for a continuation of sanctions on Iraq, which were imposed shortly after the 1990 invasion.

"With unique insolence and strategy mind Kuwait rulers forget that the embargo will be lifted sooner or later and then neither America nor anyone else will protect them but their good relations with Iraq," Jumhuriya said.

The official Al-Iraq newspaper, slamming Kuwait and its rulers, said the Gulf state was still carrying out hostile designs hatched out "in the domes of the Central Intelligence Agency and lobbies of the Pentagon."

"Five years on... it is apparent that there is no limit to Al Sabah's Kuwaiti ruling family hatred and black rancour against Iraq," Al Iraq said.

"This historic, patriotic and nationalistic day will remain forever in the hearts of Iraqis, honest Arabs and all the strugglers of the world," said the daily Babil, run by Saddam's son Qudai.

Al Thawra, the newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, wrote that "the national necessities and justifications which led Iraq to shoulder its responsibilities are clearer now than any other day."

U.S. President Bill Clinton said Tuesday the United States will maintain economic sanctions against Iraq because it has failed to comply fully with post-Gulf war U.N. resolutions.

"The policies and actions of the Saddam Hussein regime continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States as well as to regional peace and security," Mr. Clinton said in a letter to Congress informing it of his action.

An April, 1991 U.N. Security Council resolution requires the full disclosure and destruction of Iraq's nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic missile capability and ongoing monitoring to ensure it does not re-acquire banned weapons.

The U.N. special commission and the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency have completed most of their work in the nuclear, chemical and ballistic missiles fields and have established a system of long-term monitoring.

Russia wants to help stabilise Gulf — Kozyrev

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, arriving in Kuwait on the fifth anniversary of Iraq's 1990 invasion, said Wednesday that Moscow wanted to help prevent the outbreak of any future conflict in the region.

"My visit coincides with this painful date in the history of Kuwait," he said in a statement at the start of a 24-hour visit for talks with senior officials about the situation in the Gulf and bilateral military cooperation.

He said Russia, a long-time ally of Baghdad's, wants to help stabilise the oil-rich region and an important element in this was Iraqi compliance with Gulf War ceasefire resolutions.

"It (Russia) is ready to work within the framework of the Security Council to establish in this region a stable security system that would prevent the possibility of the outbreak of armed dispute or wars in this region in the future," he said.

"One of the most important elements of the security system in this region is the full implementation of Iraq of the resolutions issued by the U.N. Security Council."

Mr. Kozyrev last visited Kuwait in October to try to mediate an end to a 10-day border flare-up with Iraq. He also played a key role in the following month in securing Iraqi recognition of Kuwait as a sovereign state within U.N.-demarcated borders.

Moscow has led a campaign in the U.N. Security Council to ease sanctions imposed on Baghdad after its invasion. But Kuwait and most of its Gulf neighbours remain suspicious of any move to relax the embargo.

Kuwait last year agreed to buy \$760 million worth of arms from Moscow including fighting vehicles and missile systems.

A U.S.-led coalition ended Iraq's seven-month occupation in the 1991 Gulf War.

Meanwhile, a newspaper said Wednesday Kuwait may ask the U.N. Security Council to set up a war crimes tribunal to try 648 Iraqis including President Saddam Hussein for killings during Baghdad's 1990-91 occupation.

The English-language Arab Times reported that the Gulf state is expected to sponsor a resolution at the Council in October calling for an international military court to try alleged war criminals on the lines of World War II Nuremberg trials.

More than 300 Kuwaitis and dozens of Arab and Asian expatriates were killed in the seven-month occupation that followed Iraq's Aug. 2, 1990 invasion.

A U.S.-led multinational alliance based in Saudi Arabia drove out Iraqi troops in February 1991 after a six-week war.

The research and studies centre, a body attached to the cabinet, and Ministry of Defence officials have drawn up a so-called charge sheet based on half a million Iraqi army and intelligence documents left behind after the war, direct testimony from witnesses and reports by international human rights groups, the Arab Times said.

The detailed document describes Saddam and 647 Iraqi government and military officials and civilians as "criminals of war who must be prosecuted according to international conventions," the daily quoted officials as saying.

It reported Abdullah Al Guneim, the head of the Research and Studies Centre, as saying that the Kuwaiti government would use the charge sheet and a proposed Security Council resolution drafted by Kuwaiti officials to pursue the war crimes trial idea at the United Nations.

Kuwait was seeking advice from experts in international law about how war crimes charges could be pursued against Iraq. Higher Education Ministry Undersecretary Rasha Al Sabah was reported as saying.

Kuwait's parliament Tuesday approved government plans to abolish the State Security Court which tried collaborators with Iraq after Baghdad's troops were driven out of the country.

The vote, on the eve of the fifth anniversary of Iraq's invasion, was passed unanimously by all 44 deputies present in the 50-seat assembly, an AFP correspondent said.

Hizbollah-Palestine group claims it carried out Israel bus bombing

BEIRUT (R) — A little-known pro-Iranian Palestinian group which refuses to recognise the Jewish state has claimed responsibility for last week's suicide bombing which killed six Israelis on a bus.

Hizbollah-Palestine, which says it operates in the Israeli-occupied territories, vowed Tuesday to continue the armed struggle "until the state of Israel is wiped out."

The group has in the past said it carried out anti-Israeli attacks.

"Hizbollah-Palestine stresses that the (July 24 bus) attack was carried out by one of its cells," a telephone caller, claiming to speak on behalf of the group, told an international news agency in Beirut.

"With all pride and glory we announce the death of the heroic martyr, leader of the attack on the Israeli bus a week ago. His name is Jamal Fayez Al Youssef and he is 30 years old," the caller said.

The caller said Youssef — a Palestinian resident of Israeli-occupied territories from the Hizbollah-Palestine Cell of Martyr Mahmoud Al Khawaga — set off a bomb packed with about 20 kilograms of explosives on the bus in Tel Aviv.

Hizbollah-Palestine has claimed responsibility for several anti-Israeli attacks, including a 1991 assault that killed two Jews in the West Bank and a rocket-propelled grenade raid on an Israeli army post on the Golan Heights in 1992.

The group is believed to be an offshoot of either the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas or the smaller militant faction Islamic Jihad.

Earlier Tuesday, Hamas' military wing, the Izzeddin Al Qassam Brigades, issued a leaflet claiming responsibility for the bombing aboard the commuter bus bound for Tel Aviv from the suburb of Ramat Gan.

The leaflet, sent to an international news agency, said: "A group of fighters carried out a heroic operation... after their goal was precisely defined — the Dan Company's bus Number 20 — in a place not far from (Israeli army) Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak's (offices) in the Ramat Gan district."

"This is what our mighty fighter Abu Musab achieved with his bomb."

Hamas did not issue its usual claim in the form of a videotape of the bomber before his mission.

Nor did the leaflet call Abu Musab, a nom de guerre in Arabic, a "martyr," as the group's leaflets normally do when describing guerrillas who died while carrying out attacks.

The leaflet was dated July 27, from "Palestine."

Hamas sources said after the blast the bomber was a West Bank resident from the Hamas group of Yehiya Ayyash, mastermind of many suicide bombings and a top activist wanted by Israel.

Palestinian Muslim factions have killed scores of Israelis in suicide bombings since the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a breakthrough peace accord in September 1993.

Last Tuesday, PLO police chief Nasser Youssef said an initial investigation showed the suicide bomber did not come from areas under Palestinian rule.

Jihad offshoot claims Israel bombing

BEIRUT (R) — Hizbollah-Palestine group is an elusive offshoot of the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad.

But the group which says it operates in the Israeli-occupied territories has also said it was behind other assaults that could not be substantiated or which were denied by Israel.

Kuwaitis recall resistance with sorrow, pride

KUWAIT (R) — "Don't worry. I'll be back soon," Ahmad Qabazard told his wife, cutting short a holiday and returning to Kuwait soon after Iraq's invasion five years ago.

Six weeks later, the 33-year-old Interior Ministry official was dead, one of scores of Kuwaitis and Arab expatriates killed mounting both armed and peaceful opposition to Iraqi occupation.

In death, the glamorous officer, who normally worked as a bodyguard for visiting heads of state, has become one of dozens of heroes revered by Kuwaitis for their part in resisting the seven-month occupation launched on Aug. 2, 1990.

"I said to him, 'what if something happens to you, what would be our destiny, I and your children?'" recalls his widow, Hayam Al Ibrahim. "But I was 200 per cent sure he was not coming back. If my husband was determined to do something, he would do it."

Like many Kuwaiti families, the Qabazards were on their annual holiday when President Saddam Hussein's troops invaded.

He was one of thousands of Kuwaiti men who returned home, most of them to ferry relatives to safety in exile following Iraq's rout of minimal opposition by Kuwait's armed forces.

But Qabazard, leaving his wife and children behind in Bahrain, when back to fight the invaders.

After three weeks of gun attacks on Iraqis, Qabazard, from one of Kuwait's leading families, was arrested by Iraqi security men who removed his fingerprints to try to get information about the resistance, his wife said. He was executed on Sept. 16.

"The resistance was a big sign of our rejection of the Iraqis," she told Reuters.

The death of activists like Qabazard has left a legacy of hatred towards all Iraqis among their relatives. Ibrahim would disapprove of any future resumption of relations with Iraq.

"If they say the Iraqi people are not guilty, I say no. All Iraqi people are Saddam. Was Saddam with the army that stole, slaughtered and killed? Was Saddam there at the same place? Did Saddam see them when they killed and when they raped? No."

Referring to sanctions, she said: "What is happening to them is a punishment because of what they have done to us. They deserve more, and the more they suffer, the more pleasure we feel. That is Frank. I do not want to be romantic."

The resistance was recorded in detail in Iraqi intelligence documents captured and published after the Gulf war, and some Western embassies have studied its activities to help determine how an affluent Gulf society coped under unprecedented strain.

But five years on, its story remains little known abroad. To most foreigners the most vivid image of Kuwaitis at that time is the lavish lifestyle of exiles living abroad on state handouts.

Like the military operation that eventually freed Kuwait in February 1991, the civilian resistance was multi-national.

Participants included Lebanese, Palestinians, stateless Arabs, Americans, Indians, Filipinos, and not least Iraqis themselves, some of them Iraqi women married to Kuwaitis or Iraqi men married to Kuwaiti or Western women.

Activists, many of them women, mounted civil disobedience, distributed food, money and guns; staged guerrilla attacks and helped prevent the complete destruction of the oilfields.

Apart from armed action including suicide bomb attacks, activists posed as pro-Iraqi Palestinians to work as orderlies in ambulances in which they killed sick or wounded Iraqis being ferried to hospital. Others fed Iraqi troops poisoned food.

Kuwaiti and pro-Kuwaiti Iraqi women used promises of sex to lure Iraqi troops to apartments where they were shot dead.

Apart from some Islamic groups and a resistance cell in the oilfields, there was little structure and no central command. Most gun and petrol attacks happened on the spur of the moment.

But the objective — to let the Iraqis know Kuwait refused to live under occupation — was successful.

Publication in 1992 of the Iraqi intelligence documents showed the resistance kept the Iraqi authorities off balance and ill at ease in hostile territory throughout the occupation.

They show Iraq feared the security services of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Israel, the United States and Britain were also involved.

Kuwait has issued Gulf crisis books that mention the resistance, but there has been little public hoopla to mark its deeds, and ex-members are reluctant to talk about it in detail.

Kuwaitis deny this reluctance of publicity has to do with difficult questions of prestige that would be raised by identifying who was inside and who abroad in the occupation.

Kuwaitis say they accept that their leaders had to escape into exile after the invasion, as their arrest or execution would have caused a devastating collapse of morale.

Their main concern is preventing it from happening again.

Ms. Ibrahim said: "I cannot forget that after the liberation I saw on CNN (Cable News Network Television) a gypsy woman with a baby. She said one day this baby is going to recapture Kuwait."

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
13:30 — The Happy Professor
14:00 — Noddy
14:30 — The Albin Show
15:00 — My Secret Identity
15:30 — NBA
15:45 — Pirates Island
16:00 — Take Your Pick
16:30 — I Witness Video
17:00 — Children's Programme — Spirou
17:30 — Varieties and Game Show — Le Modest Est A Vous
18:15 — News in French
19:15 — Magazine — Portraits D'Alain Cavalier
19:30 — News Headlines
19:35 — National Geographic
20:30 — The Albin Show
21:15 — Murder She Wrote
22:00 — News in English
22:25 — Feature film: "Miss America Beauty"
22:59 — Shogun

PRAYER TIMES
6:49 — Fair (Sunrise)
12:47 — Dhuhur
16:27 — Asr
19:27 — Maghrib
21:04 — Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweidieh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 62785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 837440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrence Church Tel. 622346.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851.
Tel. 62543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

WEATHER
Bullfinch supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperature are expected to drop slightly but remaining two degrees Celsius above average with winds northerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp. 21/25

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AGABA
Agaba 27/39
Deserts 21/37
Jordan Valley 25/38

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 35 Agaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Agaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Awani Al Hawandich 777665
Dr. Ramzi Mzawi 894788
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070
Dr. Fayed Al Dabab 79185
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asoma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salim pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637661
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najih pharmacy 847832

IRABID:
Dr. Fayed Al Qadi 248743
Al Oud pharmacy — (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih 906130
Khalil pharmacy 955417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 810230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 691101

Electric Power Company 626381
RJ Flight Information 06-53300
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Huacini Medical Centre 81381332

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
08:30 Aden (RJ)
08:15 Suva (RJ)
09:45 New Delhi (RJ)
10:00 Calcutta (RJ)
10:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
11:15 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
15:40 Rome (add) (RJ)
17:30 Bangkok (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:50 London (RJ)
19:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
20:10 Rome (RJ)
21:00 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
00:15 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
00:55 Laraca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
13:00 Doha (Q7)
13:40 Sharjah (AH)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:40 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
12:15 Rome (add) (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:35 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
12:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:10 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
13:25 Beirut (RJ)
13:25 Athens (RJ)
13:25 London (RJ)
19:30 Laraca (RJ)
21:10 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
21:30 Laraca (RJ)
22:00 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:35 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
14:30 Damascus, Doha (Q7)
14:30 Algiers (AH)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Muscat (GF)

HAJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 700/500
Banana 600/400
Banana (Muskat) 600/400
Cabbage 100/50
Carrot 220/120
Cauliflower 260/160
Cucumbers (large) 150/100
Cucumbers (small) 180/100
Eggplant 650/500
Garlic 350/250
Lemon 600/500
Marrow (large) 300/200
Marrow (small) 300/200
Mushrooms 130/80
Okra 750/600
Onion (dry) 200/100
Orange 420/320
Peas 800/600
Pepper (hot) 130/80
Pepper (sweet) 160/100
Potato 360/260
String Bean 420/300
Sweet Melon 300/200
Tomato 400/300
Water Melon 120/60

Home

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the Prime Minister...
Palestinian people...
ian people. Ref...
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Exhibitor
estimate t...

By Cathy Ki...
Jordan Times Staff R...

Amman — On the...
annate day, Wednesday...
exhibition of Pale...
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were enthused over t...
turnout of visitors.

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opening last Friday...
one exhibitor and co...
general director I...
Jundaid estimated th...
had been 70,000 visi...
day.

"In my estimation...
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writing in a comment...
"Exquisite. Flavo...
and natural."

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with companies in...
the Gulf and America...
Unfortunately thou...
said, it was his first...
visit to The Kingdom.

JERASH

Eugene Ballet Com...
Royal Cultural Cent...
p.m.

Performance by Jug...
on Thursday and Fri...
p.m.

Concert by Kazem...
South Theatre on Th...
8:30 p.m.

Concert by Mu'tah...
Sound and Light Th...
9:00 p.m.

Concert by the Univ...
at the Sound and Ligh...
9:00 p.m.

Concert by St. Peter...
at Artemis Steps on F...
p.m.

Children's play enti...
at the Sound and Ligh...
Thursday and Friday...
p.m.

Poetry recital by Sa...
Barghouti, Yousef Ab...
hab Al Zyudi, and...
Thursday at Artemis...
7:00-9:00 p.m.)

Taiwan's Lee welcomes 100-year peace pact with China

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui said Wednesday he would welcome a 100-year peace treaty with China, saying that would help the reunification of the two rivals.

"To create opportunities for China's peace and reunification... if the 100-year peace treaty (with China) can be done, it is even more welcome. This is the best solution," Mr. Lee told the National Assembly, broadcast on Independent Television Broadcasting Satellite.

"The question, how to work on it," Mr. Lee said in apparent reference to a treaty. "We should strengthen mutual trust and rationality to achieve it."

Taiwan and China have been rivals since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949. Both governments say they want eventual reunification, but on different terms.

Gradually improved relations have plunged since Mr. Lee's private visit to the United States in June. China has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since 1949 and objects to contact be-

tween Taiwan and other countries.

China postponed high-level talks with Taiwan after Mr. Lee's U.S. visit and conducted missile tests north of the island last month, triggering massive fears and plunging stock and foreign exchange markets.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's Defence Ministry said Wednesday it had not received any information about a planned military exercise around Oct. 10 announced by President Lee.

The exercise is planned for National Day, Oct. 10, but was not being staged in retaliation to China's recent missile tests north of the island, state-funded Chinese Television System quoted Defence Minister Chiang Chung-ling as saying.

Mr. Chiang, who declined to comment on the exercise, said on state-funded radio: "Ask the Spokesman's Office."

"We have not yet received any information about the exercise. We will issue a formal notice if there is one," an

official at the spokesman's office said by telephone.

Mr. Lee told the National Assembly Tuesday that a military exercise "with certain scales" would be held around Oct. 10 to display the island's defensive ability and firepower.

He said China's recent missile tests aroused concern and there was a need to show the people that Taiwan's military power was on the right track.

"We may hold an exercise with certain scales before or after the double ten (Oct. 10) festival. Please come and inspect, then you will understand our military's firepower and combat ability," Mr. Lee told the National Assembly.

The China Times Express newspaper reported Wednesday that the exercise, named Hua Hsin, would be held before Oct. 10 at a navy base in Tsuyin in southern Kaohsiung and Mr. Lee would observe it.

"The army, the navy and the air force would all join the exercise, the newspaper said. Taiwan-China relations

plunged after Mr. Lee's private visit to the United States in June. China has postponed scheduled high-level talks with the island.

The atmosphere further worsened over China's missile tests, which triggered massive fears in Taiwan and caused the stock and foreign exchange markets to tumble last month.

Beijing has recently restated its threat to recover the island by force and Chinese Defence Minister Chi Haotian said on Monday the People's Liberation Army would not give up the threat of force against Taiwan if the island tried to declare independence.

Both Taiwan and China claim they want reunification, but on different terms. Mr. Lee, who has said repeatedly he objects to independence, told the assembly he was pleased with Taiwan's recent military exercises.

"I feel very confident about our defensive power... I think you should put your heart at ease," he said Tuesday.

China expels 2 U.S. air force officers

BEIJING (AFP) — China ordered the expulsion Wednesday of two U.S. Air Force officers for spying on military facilities, dealing a major blow to efforts to resolve the current crisis in Sino-U.S. relations.

The Foreign Ministry said the 24-hour expulsion order had been issued Wednesday morning on Joseph Wei Chan, air force liaison officer with the U.S. consulate-general in Hong Kong, and his deputy, Dwayne Howard Florenze.

It was not immediately clear where the two officers were being held or whether the expulsion order had been carried out.

The men were caught "on the spot" by Chinese soldiers on July 29 in a restricted military zone in southeast China, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang, quoted by the official Xinhua News Agency. He added that they had "illegally acquired military intelligence by photographing and videotaping."

The U.S. State Department in Washington said it was aware of the expulsions of the attaches but had no immediate comment to make.

But the incident will fuel the crisis in Sino-U.S. relations, which have been in a downward spiral ever since the controversial "private" visit of Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui to the United

States in June, analysts said. Beijing, which views Nationalist Taiwan as a renegade province, strongly denounced the visit, recalled its ambassador from Washington and cancelled planned Sino-U.S. defence talks in retaliation.

The expulsion was announced the same day as U.S. officials voiced hopes that the deterioration of ties had "bottomed out" following talks between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in Beijing.

The talks Tuesday, on the sidelines of a meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), had marked the first tentative steps at patching up ties that have also been strained by the arrest last month in China of U.S. human rights activist Harry Wu on espionage charges.

Observers suggested that the expulsion of the two air force officers would provide Beijing with another weapon to attack Washington when Mr. Qian and Mr. Christopher meet again in September.

According to the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Chan and Mr. Florenze entered China on July 23, having applied for visas on the grounds of holding consultations with the U.S. embassy in Beijing and other consulate-general personnel in the country.

Having entered the country, "they sneaked into a number of restricted military zones in China's southeast coastal areas," Mr. Shen said, adding that the expulsion order had been issued by the state security authorities.

The authorities have carried out an investigation into the case and "the facts are clear and irrefutable," Mr. Shen said, stipulating that the two officers had violated Chinese laws on the protection of military facilities, state security and the control of aliens entering and exiting the country.

Their activities have also "seriously undermined China's national security," he added.

The expulsion order was relayed to the U.S. charge d'affaires Scott Halford in Beijing at 10 a.m. (0200 GMT) Wednesday, Xinhua reported.

The government lodged a strong protest with Mr. Halford, who is currently in charge of the embassy as it awaits a new ambassador, and demanded assurances that similar incidents would not occur in the future.

While no concrete resolutions of the various disputes between Beijing and Washington emerged from the Qian-Christopher meeting in Beijing, both sides agreed to resume lower-level talks as well as scheduling the September talks between the two ministers.

Jane Austen might have been lesbian — scholar

LONDON (R) — An American professor stoked a literary row by claiming that 18th-century English society novelist Jane Austen may have had a lesbian relationship with her sister. In an article headlined "Was Jane Austen gay?" Terry Castle, professor of English at California's Stanford University, noted that the Jane shared a bed for years with her sister Cassandra. After a review of Austen's letters, Prof. Castle noted that Jane turned down two offers of marriage and she commented on the "passionate nature of the sibling bond" between the two women. Austen, author of *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma* and a string of other witty observations of English middle-class life, died unmarried in 1817 at the age of 43. "The conventions of 19th-century female sociability may have provided the necessary screen behind which both women acted out unconscious narcissistic or homosexual imperatives," wrote Prof. Castle in the *London Review of Books*. Austen scholars hit back angrily, saying Prof. Castle was poorly informed about English social history. "It shows such ignorance of the domestic conditions of the time because people did sleep in each other's beds. It was a natural thing, partly because they didn't have central heating," said Elizabeth Jenkins, one of Austen's biographers. Another Austen expert, Claire Tomalin said "I think it's about as likely that Jane Austen was gay as that she was found out to be a man."

Britain's Globe names artistic director

LONDON (AP) — British actor Mark Rylance was named Tuesday the first artistic director of the rebuilt Globe theatre, the famous "Wooden O" that was home to Shakespeare's kings more than four centuries ago. The inaugural Globe season will be launched next May with a summer repertory of four plays, two of them by the Bard, said Rylance, meeting the press nearly a week after a London newspaper "leaked" his appointment. The slightly built, genial Rylance — born 35 years ago in England but raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin — said he wanted a core company of 30 to 35 actors to "constitute a true ensemble. No specific actors or directors were named. The new Globe, a three-tiered structure situated on the South Bank of the Thames, fulfills a long-held dream of American actor Sam Wanamaker, who died at the age of 74 in December 1993. The entire Globe centre, encompassing two theatres, a restaurant, exhibition space and education institute, is expected to be completed by Sept. 21, 1999, the 400th anniversary of the first recorded performance there. The total cost of the project has been put at £30 million (\$47.7 million).

Man ordered to repay \$39m stolen in robbery

LONDON (AFP) — Eleven years after a man was acquitted of taking part in Britain's biggest gold robbery, a judge has ruled that he was involved and must repay the £26 million (\$39 million) stolen. The Times reported Wednesday, Anthony White, acquitted in 1984 of taking part in the 1983 bullion robbery at the Brink's-Mat warehouse near London's Heathrow Airport, was also ordered Tuesday to pay over £2 million (\$3 million) in compensation, the paper said. Insurers for the Brink's-Mat company had sued the couple for the value of the proceeds of the robbery. Justice Rimmer said in court Tuesday that Mr. White and his wife came into substantial wealth after his acquittal in 1984, and that "Mr. White could not have acquired it lawfully, (and) that its magnitude shows it was the fruit of a major crime." The Times reported. The judge said that the Whites' family home in London, a property in Spain, jewellery and other assets were bought with the proceeds of the robbery, and that the insurers were entitled to them, the paper said. The case against Mr. White is the latest in a series of actions brought by insurers against Brink's-Mat against acquittal or suspension of taking part in the robbery and of handling the proceeds.

S.Koreans to join team inspecting North Korea nuclear reactor site

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Despite past efforts by North Korea to limit the role of its Southern rivals, South Koreans will be included in a team inspecting a proposed North Korean nuclear reactor site, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

Two new reactors, funded by an international consortium led by South Korea, Japan and the United States, will replace a reactor that U.S. officials have said could produce fuel used in nuclear weapons.

In negotiations with the United States, North Korea has repeatedly sought to exclude South Koreans. But Robert Gallucci, assistant U.S. secretary of state, insisted that North Korea will have to accept its rivals when the inspection team arrives in late August or early September to prepare the site for construction of the South Korea-designed reactors.

"We have insisted that South Korea will play a central role in this light water reactor project," Mr. Gallucci said.

A spokesman for the North Korean delegation to the United Nations refused to com-

ment Tuesday. Mr. Gallucci spoke at a news conference at the U.S. mission to the United Nations following the first general meeting of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation.

The consortium was created in March to implement a U.S.-North Korea accord to replace North Korea's plutonium-producing reactor at Yongbyon with light water reactors that cannot easily convert fuel to weapons-grade material.

North Korea, which has had tense relations with South Korea since the end of the Korean War in the 1950s, had objected to South Korean models. But final terms were worked out between U.S. and North Korean negotiators in Malaysia in early June.

U.S. officials have suspected Pyongyang of developing a nuclear weapons programme.

Consortium officials have received commitments from several nations to help finance the \$4.5 billion project. Mr. Gallucci said most of the cost will be paid by South Korea and Japan.

Under the accord, the United States promised to provide North Korea with heavy fuel oil until the new reactors could be built.

Mr. Gallucci said that could amount to 500,000 metric tonnes of fuel oil worth about \$50 million each year. The United States has sent 150,000 metric tonnes so far this year and is hoping members of the consortium will help pay future costs.

The consortium also is charged with removing and safely disposing of thousands of spent fuel rods, a process Mr. Gallucci said was proceeding with cooperation from North Korean officials.

The consortium will be headed by Stephen Bosworth, an American. Its deputy executive directors will be Choi Young-jin of South Korea and Umezaki Itaru of Japan.

The prime contractor for the two planned reactors will be Kempeco, the South Korean Electric Utility.

The Netherlands Tuesday offered \$500,000 to help finance North Korea's nuclear reactors, the Dutch Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Diarrhoea epidemic kills hundreds in Bangladesh

DHAKA (AFP) — Up to 1,500 people have been killed in a diarrhoea epidemic that has swept Bangladesh where experts said Wednesday the situation was "extremely grave."

Press reports said as many as 1,500 people, mainly children and elderly, had died from the disease in flood hit regions since May. Health officials said 1,000 people had died since January.

But the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease and Research (ICDDR) in Bangladesh also issued an emergency alert for the capital, with its swelling population of eight million.

Up to 450 patients were reported daily to the centre, nearly twice the average number of past years, the ICDDR said in a statement. "We are witnessing an epidemic and emergency," said Demisse Habte, the centre director, describing the situation as "extremely grave."

Thousands of people across Bangladesh have been hit by the illness after half of the country was submerged by monsoon floods in July — the worst in six years.

Health officials said diarrhoea, which kills by dehydration unless treated quickly, was normal at this time of the year.

But receding floods had left contaminated water and a serious health situation, they said. And the Meteorological Department has warned of fresh flooding this month forcing the government to prepare contingency plans for a new crisis.

The ICDDR assistant director, Graham Wright told AFP the centre's warning was based on cases reported to the hospital, which was overflowing with patients.

Pakistan gang leader killed in gunbattle

KARACHI (AP) — The man topping Pakistan's list of most-wanted suspects was shot and killed early Wednesday in a gunbattle with police in this troubled port city.

Farooq Dada, implicated in scores of killings, extortion attempts and kidnappings, was hauling weapons from one neighbourhood to another when police tried to stop his vehicle, said Khalid Tipu, a police spokesman.

Mr. Dada and his three companions opened fire but

were killed by 10 heavily armed police officers, said Mr. Tipu.

He said police were tipped off that weapons were being moved out of the troubled Malir district in eastern Karachi but he said Mr. Dada's involvement was a bonus.

"We had this area under surveillance and when this car came by we ordered them to stop, but instead they opened fire," he said. When the shooting stopped

police discovered Mr. Dada in the bullet-ravaged car, along with 13 automatic rifles and a rocket propelled grenade launcher.

Police said there was a 1.5 million rupee (\$500,000) reward for Mr. Dada's capture.

Mr. Dada was a member of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), a militant ethnic group that has clashed with authorities in Karachi, the country's financial and industrial centre.

Hurricane brings winds, rain but little damage to Florida

FORT PIERCE, Fla (R) — Hurricane Erin swept ashore on Florida's east coast early Wednesday, raking central areas of the state with high winds and heavy rain as it headed towards the Gulf of Mexico.

Erin, rated a minimal hurricane with highest sustained winds of 85 miles per hour (137 kmph), blew down power lines around Vero Beach and Fort Pierce, about 150 miles (230 km) north of Miami. Gusts toppled some trees and rattled street signs, but apparently caused little damage, according to early reports.

"Maximum sustained are near 85 mph, and weakening is likely after the storm moves over land," the National Hurricane Centre said in an update on the storm's progress.

Erin's arrival had been nervously awaited — the last hurricane to strike Florida was Andrew in 1992, a killer storm that left 35 dead and 250,000 homeless and caused more than \$20 billion in damage.

Local emergency managers kept police and emergency

workers on standby and warned residents to stay inside as the storm remained over the Florida peninsula, but local media reports indicated some residents were leaving hurricane shelters in the early morning hours to return home.

Emergency officials had ordered 100,000 residents of luxury flats and beach homes on barrier islands off central Florida to evacuate, but it was unclear how many heeded the warning, which was issued late Tuesday afternoon.

"Look like we made it through the night," said Palm Beach County Assistant Administrator Patrick Miller. The hurricane's immediate threat was rain — between three and six inches (7-15 cm), was expected — and surging ocean storm tides of 5-10 feet (1.5 to 3 metres).

Trees bent and branches were loose in the high winds, which sent garbage can lids and other loose debris shooting along roadways.

Residents who called local television stations said the storm was blowing out power transformers in some neigh-

bourhoods and, heavy rain was pooling on low-lying streets and in parking lots. "I'm scared to death," said a woman who identified herself as Doris Hurst, reporting eerie blue flashes as transformers exploded at the electric poles outside her home.

Hurricane warnings remained in effect for the east coast of the state as Erin swept west-northwest across the state on a path that would take it near Disney World in Orlando before emerging in the Gulf of Mexico. Erin could regroup over the warm waters and threaten other coastal areas, forecasters said.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration rolled the shuttle Endeavour from its seaside launch pad back to the safety of its mammoth assembly building at Cape Canaveral Tuesday, and workers at the Magic Kingdom left their jobs early.

Erin surprised residents of central Florida. It was expected to slam into Miami and Fort Lauderdale, but veered to the north during its last 24 hours over the Atlantic Ocean.

U.S. to admit fewer refugees

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration plans to admit 20,000 fewer refugees in fiscal 1996, largely because the number of Vietnamese eligible for refugee status is declining.

For years, the United States has operated special programmes for the Vietnamese children of American soldiers who served in Vietnam and for former officials of the U.S.-backed Saigon regime sent to reeducation camps after the Communist triumph.

Resettlement of those

eligible is almost completed. Under Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff told the Senate's judiciary committee Tuesday, and these programmes are being phased out.

Mr. Tarnoff said President Bill Clinton is proposing a refugee ceiling of 90,000 for the next fiscal year, compared with the current figure of 110,000.

Meanwhile, at a downtown news conference, the private Centre for Immigration Studies estimated that overall immigration in the United States declined by 59,000 to

more than 1.2 million in the last fiscal year. It was the first decline since 1991.

Centre spokesman John Martin predicted that this year's overall immigration figure would be much like 1994's. He said the downward trend results from numerous small causes but agreed that phasing out of the refugee programme for children of American soldiers in Vietnam was an important one.

"We may be on a plateau, but it's too early to tell," he said.

Janet Reno defends Waco decision but haunted by children's deaths

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Atty. Gen. Janet Reno defended her decision to use tear gas in the bloody raid on a religious cult's compound but said the fiery deaths of children there "will be with me for the rest of my life."

Testifying at the end of hearings by two subcommittees of the House of Representatives, Ms. Reno refused persistent attempts by majority Republicans to blame President Bill Clinton, a Democrat, for what went wrong at Waco, Texas.

Branch Davidson leader David Koresh and 80 followers died at Waco by fire or gunfire on April 19, 1993, six hours after the FBI started filling the compound with tear gas.

One of the two Republicans chairing the 10-day hearings, Representative Bill Zeff, suggested that Mr. Clinton made the decision and that he improperly distanced himself from it.

"American tanks were turned on American citizens without the approval of anyone who was politically accountable," Mr. Zeff said in his closing statement.

Ms. Reno insisted, as she has from the day the gas was used, that the decision was hers and that Mr. Clinton pledged to "back me up" when she explained what the FBI was going to do.

"I made the best judgment I could based on everything I had available," she said.

The deaths, which the government termed a mass suicide in fires set by the Davidians, ended a 51-day standoff that began with a Feb. 28 shootout that left six Davidians and four federal agents dead.

A final report won't be ready for months, but lawmakers on both sides agreed that the hearings had debunked various conspiracy theories about what happened at Waco.

Throughout the hearings, Republicans criticised actions by the FBI, the Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which tried to serve warrants at the compound. But the FBI's use of tear gas came in for special scrutiny.

Mr. Zeff said that decision had led to the deaths of Koresh and his followers. "Koresh was the bomb,"

he said. "We lit the fuse." He softened his position in his closing statement, saying Koresh was responsible for the deaths.

Ms. Reno said she initially rejected the gas plan but agreed to it after military experts told her the gas would not be harmful to children who were inside the compound. Other factors in her decision, she added, included FBI reports that the group had fresh water and enough food for up to a year, the likelihood that reported child abuse would continue, the fatigue of the specially trained hostage rescue team and a concern that a private militia group might head to Waco "either to help Koresh or attack him."

At several points in her eight hours of testimony, Ms. Reno talked about thinking about the children at the compound.

"I stayed awake at night, wondering what was the right thing to do," she said. "What about the children?"

"Those children, no matter how they were found, the fact that they are dead is a tragedy that will be with me for the rest of my life."

India to hold Kashmir polls 'when conducive'

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The Indian government said Wednesday that it will hold legislative elections in the state of Kashmir, which were put off in July, when the situation permits.

Bhavanesh Chaturvedi, minister of state in the prime minister's office, informed parliament that the government was doing its best to restore normalcy to the northern state wracked by Muslim insurgency.

"A decision to hold free and fair elections in Kashmir will be taken in consultation with Election Commission when the situation becomes conducive," he said in the Lok Sabha, or lower house.

The government was keeping a close watch on the situation, and "had already initiated a number of steps to encourage the political process there and to create conditions for free and fair polls," Mr. Chaturvedi said.

Steps taken included sustained operations against Muslim separatists, reactivating the civil administration, and providing facilities for politicians to interact with the electorate, he said. Kashmir, where a bloody

Muslim separatist drive has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989, has been ruled directly by New Delhi since January 1990 after an elected government was sacked.

Fresh elections were to be held to pick a new Kashmir legislature in July but were postponed indefinitely following an escalation in violence after the burning of an Islamic shrine in May.

Muslim militants have repeatedly refused to take part in any election, saying they will only be satisfied with an end to Indian rule over Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority state.

Mr. Chaturvedi also told MPs that the government had beefed up security in the troubled Kashmir Valley after the kidnapping of five foreign tourists by Muslim guerrillas last month.

"Patrolling in sensitive areas as well as tourist resorts has been intensified, and pickets manned by security forces (have been) established to check recurrence of such incidents," he said.

But Mr. Chaturvedi gave no details of the attempts to

trace the two Britons, an American, a German and a Norwegian.

The Britons and the American were seized by the Al Faran militant group on July 4 from Kashmir's mountainous region of Pahalgam. The other two were seized by the group four days later.

Al Faran is demanding the release of 21 jailed militants in exchange for the five. New Delhi has rejected the demand. On Tuesday, the rebels said one of the hostages was seriously ill but did not identify him.

Meanwhile, police warned Wednesday of possible bomb blasts in Bombay in the wake of two powerful explosions in Kashmir.

A police statement said a major bomb blast in Kashmir's winter capital Jammu and the recovery of an unexploded bomb in New Delhi indicated that Bombay could be the next target.

"The possibility of similar blasts being set off in Bombay cannot be ruled out," the statement said, urging people to be alert while travelling on public transport and in crowded places. The police said railway and

bus stations, movie halls and crowded market places were the likely targets, and asked citizens to look out for unclaimed objects such as radio sets and bags.

Twenty people were killed and 60 others injured when a bomb hidden inside a scooter exploded in Jammu on July 20. A Hindu pilgrim died in a second blast in the city six days later.

Muslim separatist groups fighting to end Indian rule over Kashmir have claimed responsibility for the bombings.

Around the same time as the Jammu blasts, police detected a powerful bomb in a New Delhi railway station.

Some 320 people were killed in Bombay in a string of blasts on March 12, 1993 which the authorities blamed on Muslim members of the underworld wanting to avenge the December 1992 razing of a 16th century mosque by Hindu fanatics.

The explosions at the Bombay Stock Exchange, Air India headquarters and other prominent landmarks injured hundreds and destroyed property worth millions of dollars.

Jane Austen might have been lesbian

LONDON (R) — A new row has broken out over the possibility that the 19th-century English novelist Jane Austen might have been a lesbian. The article, which appeared in the *Independent*, was written by a professor of English at the University of California, San Diego. The professor, who is a well-known Austen scholar, wrote that Austen's letters and other documents suggested that she had a "close and intimate" relationship with a woman named Cassandra. The professor also noted that Austen's letters to Cassandra were more intimate than those to her other friends. The article has caused a stir among Austen scholars, who are divided over whether or not Austen was a lesbian. Some scholars, like the professor, believe that Austen was a lesbian, while others believe that she was not. The professor's article is the latest in a series of articles that have questioned Austen's sexuality. In 1993, a book by a scholar named Janet E. Torgeman argued that Austen was a lesbian. The book was widely criticized, but it has since been re-evaluated. The professor's article is more recent and more detailed. It is based on a close reading of Austen's letters and other documents. The professor argues that Austen's relationship with Cassandra was more than just a friendship. It was a "close and intimate" relationship, and it was one that was not shared with any other woman. The professor also notes that Austen's letters to Cassandra were more intimate than those to her other friends. This, the professor argues, is evidence that Austen was a lesbian. The article has caused a stir among Austen scholars, who are divided over whether or not Austen was a lesbian. Some scholars, like the professor, believe that Austen was a lesbian, while others believe that she was not. The professor's article is the latest in a series of articles that have questioned Austen's sexuality. In 1993, a book by a scholar named Janet E. Torgeman argued that Austen was a lesbian. The book was widely criticized, but it has since been re-evaluated. The professor's article is more recent and more detailed. It is based on a close reading of Austen's letters and other documents. The professor argues that Austen's relationship with Cassandra was more than just a friendship. It was a "close and intimate" relationship, and it was one that was not shared with any other woman. The professor also notes that Austen's letters to Cassandra were more intimate than those to her other friends. This, the professor argues, is evidence that Austen was a lesbian.



Demonstrators carry portraits of the 41-year-old Kurdish woman Gulnaz Baghistani, who died last week after several days on a hunger-strike, as some 10,000 Kurds

march through Berlin in a rally mourning the death of their compatriot and demanding independence for Kurdistan (AFP photo)

Angry Kurds bury hunger-striker in Germany

OSNABRUECK, Germany (R) — Hundreds of Kurds shouting support for the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) gathered Wednesday to bury a hunger-striker who died after an eight-day fast in solidarity with Kurdish prisoners in Turkey.

A large flag of the Kurdistan National Liberation Front (ERNK), the PKK's political wing, draped the coffin holding Baghistani, whom radical Kurds have hailed as a martyr.

Officials said they had evidence that the PKK, which numbers over 8,000 militants and around 50,000 supporters in Germany, is extending its campaign of violence to target Germany and German properties, especially the police.

Germany is home to around two million Turkish citizens, including up to 500,000 Kurds. Turkey said Wednesday it had asked Germany to step up efforts against separatist Kurds involved in attacks on Turkish targets there.

Britain's *Guardian* names artist director

LONDON (AP) — Actor Mark Rylance named Tuesday's artistic director of the Globe theatre as "Wooden O" to Shakespeare's nearly four centuries. The inaugural play will be *Titus Andronicus*, with a summer of four plays, including *The Bard*, *Shakespeare*, and *Shakespeare*. The play will be a week after a summer of four plays, including *The Bard*, *Shakespeare*, and *Shakespeare*. The play will be a week after a summer of four plays, including *The Bard*, *Shakespeare*, and *Shakespeare*.

The PKK, fighting Ankara for independence or autonomy in southeast Turkey, has been banned in Germany since 1993 for staging violent protests here.

Germany is home to around two million Turkish citizens, including up to 500,000 Kurds. Turkey said Wednesday it had asked Germany to step up efforts against separatist Kurds involved in attacks on Turkish targets there.

Germany is home to around two million Turkish citizens, including up to 500,000 Kurds. Turkey said Wednesday it had asked Germany to step up efforts against separatist Kurds involved in attacks on Turkish targets there.

Russian security inadequate for arms storage

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Russian army chief of staff, General Mikhail Kolesnikov, has said security measures for storing chemical weapons in Russia are inadequate, the long-held dream of the Interfax News Agency reported Wednesday.

Gen. Kolesnikov told a government commission. He said that with the surge in crime in Russia, the risk of chemical weapons attacks had increased.

The Russian government provided only 13.1 billion rubles (\$3 million) out of 153 billion of rubles (\$33 million) required to destroy the stocks. The total cost of the destruction of 40,000 tonnes of chemical weapons will be about \$3.5 billion, the general said.

The convention calls for all Russian chemical weapons to be destroyed within 10 years. Gen. Kolesnikov said. In March, President Boris Yeltsin began a programme to begin weapons destruction in line with the convention, with one destruction centre in Saratov southeast of Moscow, and another to the Russian Republic of Udmurtiya, the general said.

Berlusconi says change must await election

ROME (R) — Former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi called Wednesday for radical constitutional reform to give Italy stable government but said the changes should not be tackled until after an general election.

He hopes a general election, four years early, can take place as soon as November. Centre-left parties and other Berlusconi opponents in parliament want at least basic reforms to Italy's system of government in place before polls.

All oppose Mr. Berlusconi's drive popular election of the prime minister, arguing that the tycoon-turned-politician could use his powers to ride roughshod over democratic rules.

Armando Cossutta, of the Marxist party Communist Refoundation, told the debate. "Berlusconi's vision is an authoritarian vision. It is a vision of command, like running a company."

Mielke release outrages German terror victims

BERLIN (R) — The release of the last jailed member of East Germany's Communist regime, hated security police boss Erich Mielke, has outraged victims who say justice has not been done for decades of dictatorship and terror.

A committee of Mielke supporters said Wednesday he was staying with his family at a secret location to avoid a storm of publicity. East Germans dubbed him "the master of fear" as head of the notorious Ministry for State Security (STASI).

The thought of early release for the man whose power was second only to that of Communist Party boss Erich Honecker angered those persecuted by Mr. Mielke's apparatus of terror.

It systematically opened mail, filmed, burgled and blackmailed in its obsessive hunt for "enemies of the state," creating a pervasive atmosphere of distrust and suspicion.

Sri Lankan army on alert ahead of new peace moves

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lankan forces stepped up security in Colombo Wednesday fearing violence as the president prepares to release a new peace proposal to end the island's civil war.

Radicals among the majority Sinhalese community opposed a similar peace plan in 1987, and 55 people died in the ensuing riots.

On Wednesday, heavily armed soldiers stepped up road blocks and checks on vehicles entering the capital and more guards were outside key government installations.

Sandbag bunkers have already been set up outside Mrs. Kumaratunga's official residence, which is also protected by anti-aircraft guns.

The Sinhalese People's Liberation Front (JVP) has joined the influential Buddhist clergy in calling the proposal amendments to the constitution a sell-out to Tamils.

The government is preparing to unveil a package that will pave the way to disintegrate the country. This so-called settlement to the ethnic conflict is a giant step towards the creation of Eelam (separate Tamil state), the JVP said.

Western diplomats said the package, leaked to the press last week, showed a major advance on all previous peace attempts and should be acceptable to "any reasonable person."

Meanwhile, in the Tamil stronghold of Jaffna, Tigers chief Velupillai Prabhakaran ordered the search for the "traitor" who enabled the military to inflict the Tamils with their heaviest losses yet in a single day.

The plan seeks to grant a key territorial concession to the Tamils by joining two existing provinces in the north and east where the Tamil minority is concentrated.

The military claims to have killed at least 300 Tigers, while the Tigers admit to losing 180 fighters, including 128 women, during their massive pre-dawn attack on a military complex in northeast Wel Oya Friday.

In the capital the army also fielded more guards to protect the funeral procession of Lieutenant General Nalin Angammana, killed by the Tigers Friday in revenge for the Wel Oya debacle.

The slain eastern army commander was cremated here Wednesday after a military funeral conducted amid tight security, witnesses said.

The Colombo General Cemetery was guarded by heavily armed soldiers as Brig. Angammana's remains were cremated following traditional Buddhist rites led by saffron-robed Buddhist monks.

Hundreds of people including police and soldiers lined the funeral path and traffic was diverted on many key routes to make way for the military procession, complete with a 15-gun salute.

Brig. Angammana, who was eastern commander at the time of his death, was the senior most army officer to be killed since the slaying of the northern military chief, General Denzil Kobbekaduwa by the LTTE in August 1992.

Brig. Angammana was posthumously given two promotions after he was killed Sunday in eastern Batticaloa district.

The Sri Lankan government plans to introduce the draft if the current ethnic war in the island's northeast is prolonged, state-run Daily News said Wednesday.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Margala Samaraweera told a seminar for local journalists Tuesday that if the war dragged on the government would draft "all able-bodied youth over 18 years," the Daily News said.

Mr. Samaraweera, a close associate of President Chandrika Kumaratunga, said that even Sri Lankan youth residing overseas would be called on for national military service.

Those who wanted the government to unveil its peace package to resolve the ethnic conflict only after defeating Tamil rebels had sent their children abroad to ensure they were not sent to the battle-front, Mr. Samaraweera said.

Peace talks survive firing of Chechen delegate

GROZNY, Russia (AFP) — Chechen and Russian negotiators pursued talks on a prisoner exchange here Wednesday, saying the abrupt resignation of the head of the Chechen delegation would not undermine peace efforts.

Both Chechen and Russian sides insisted the peace process, which brought about a broad ceasefire and disarmament agreement Sunday, would go on despite the departure of Usman Imaev.

Mr. Imaev said late Tuesday that he had been fired by Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, reportedly for making too many concessions to the Russians in Sunday's military accord.

Mr. Dudayev has been quoted as rejecting the agreement, but Movlen Salamov, an aide to Mr. Dudayev, said Wednesday that this was not true and that Mr. Imaev had simply resigned.

He said there had been complaints in the Chechen camp about Mr. Imaev, although they concerned organisational matters rather than the substance of the talks.

"Any information negotiator, Vyacheslav Mikhailov, said late Tuesday that Sunday's agreement, reached after six weeks of talks, would be respected."

"We think the accord is already legally in existence because it was written that it would go into effect the day of 'being signed,'" Mr. Mikhailov was quoted as saying by Radio Mayak in an interview monitored in London by the BBC.

But Mr. Imaev's departure was bound to complicate the delicate and tense process aimed at ending the vicious war that started last December when Russian troops poured in to crush a three-year-old Chechen independence drive.

Mr. Mikhailov called the change in the Chechen delegation a "violation" of previous agreements on the makeup of the negotiating

teams and said the Russian side would consult on the matter. He praised Mr. Imaev as "cool headed."

Another Russian delegation member, Vladimir Zorin, said "Usman Imaev skillfully conducted the talks. Without him, the process will be more complicated."

Mr. Salamov said the delegation would be headed by Khodzha Khodzhaev, who until now served as Mr. Imaev's deputy during the negotiations.

ITAR-TASS news agency, quoting an unidentified aide to Mr. Imaev, said the negotiator was being used by Mr. Dudayev as a "scapegoat" for Chechen concessions at the talks.

"Mr. Imaev will bear responsibility ... thus freeing Mr. Dudayev from it and avoiding a split among his supporters," the aide said.

But the clearest indication that the peace talks were still on track was the work continued Wednesday to finalise details of an exchange of

prisoners of war agreed to in the accord and expected to take place within days.

Mr. Zorin said he would head a working group at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is mediating the talks, Thursday, to discuss the future peace talks.

Yet to be discussed are the fraught questions of an interim government, who can run in planned elections and how Chechnya's status with the Russian Federation will be decided.

These questions will be discussed later at delegation level.

Both sides completely disagree on how many prisoners are being held and a mass prisoner exchange by Aug. 7, as agreed to in Sunday's military accord, seems increasingly unlikely.

The Chechens claim 5,000 of their fighters and civilians are missing, although the Russian list, which Russian officials admit is inaccurate, only carries 1,200 names.

Call to quit widens rift in Japanese coalition

TOKYO (AFP) — A senior member of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's party called for his resignation Wednesday, widening a rift opened by the Socialists' crushing setback in upper house elections last month.

Masanori Goto, vice secretary-general of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), called on Mr. Murayama to step down as government leader in order to save the party.

"It's better for Mr. Murayama to resign and concentrate on reorganising our party," Mr. Goto was quoted as saying by Jiji Press news agency.

Mr. Murayama has pledged to remain in office. But the party's number-two, Secretary-General Wataru Kubo, has informed the prime minister he intends to resign to take responsibility for the SDP's poor showing at the July 23 polls, Kyodo News Agency said.

On Wednesday, the daily Yomiuri Shimbun published a poll showing that 50.4 per cent of Japanese voters do

not support Mr. Murayama's cabinet, the lowest level of public confidence in the government since he formed his government to June 1994.

"We need to summarise the election results and want to clarify our responsibility," Mr. Kubo told a labour union conference in Saitama prefecture, north of Tokyo.

Japan emperor mourns war dead in Okinawa

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Emperor Akihito Wednesday mourned war victims killed in the battle for Okinawa 50 years ago.

As they did so, demonstrators staged a rally nearby protesting against his visit.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko placed a wreath at the National Cemetery in Peace Memorial Park in Itoman, for those who died in the battle for the island, and offered a silent prayer.

"We must remember the fact that one in every four Okinawans died in the war," the emperor said in a statement quoted by Jiji Press and released upon his departure from Tokyo ahead of the one-day trip.

"I pray that the victims' souls may rest in peace in the hope that this peace will never be infringed while keeping in my mind the deaths of many people which laid the foundation for peace," he said.

The imperial couple also visited 114 newly erected stone monuments engraved with the names of 234,183 people killed in the battle, including U.S., Chinese and Korean citizens.

Following the visits, the couple were greeted by some 90 survivors. "I believe you had a terrible time 50 years ago," the emperor was quoted by Japanese reporters as telling one of the survivors.

As the imperial couple continued their tour of the island, some 70 labour union members and students staged a protest demonstration in a central park.

"We want the emperor to think about what kind of feelings his coming to Okinawa evokes among the bereaved families," Kikue Yamano, a member of a local teachers' union, told Kyodo News Service.

"This is not a trip to commemorate the war dead or to atone for the war," Mr. Yamano said, who joined a protest parade through the city, shouting, "May Okinawa never happen again."

Many elderly people in Okinawa and other cities, including atom-bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, are still angry at the imperial family's role in the war.

Okinawa was the only place in Japan during the war where ground battles that took place involved civilians.

The Allied invasion of Okinawa was launched in April 1945 and an estimated 12,500 Americans and 250,000

Japanese were killed. It was the second trip to Okinawa for the emperor and empress since they came to the throne in 1959. They visited the island in April 1993 to take part in a tree-planting ceremony.

The emperor last week visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But his visits drew criticism from "Hibakusha," survivors of the Aug. 6 and Aug. 9, 1945 atomic bomb attacks, who questioned the role of his father Emperor Hirohito in the war.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko will conclude their series of tours to mourn the war dead Thursday when they attend a ceremony at the cenotaph in Tokyo.

They are not scheduled to make any public appearances on Aug. 6 and 9.

Meanwhile, Japan's Transport Minister Shizuka Kamei condemned Americans Wednesday over their continued support for the decision 50 years ago to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"If countries justify the atomic bombings, nothing will come out," Mr. Kamei told a news conference. "I acknowledge that there are various kinds of discussion on

the issue, but people need to sincerely reconsider the past."

The conservative politician made the remarks two days after an opinion poll in the United States showed 76 per cent of Americans still believe the United States should not apologise to Japan for the bombings.

"In fact my elder sister died recently of after-effects of the bombing," Mr. Kamei said, "and I was an eyewitness to the mushroom cloud when I was a child."

More than 246,000 people were killed following the bombings and some 522,000 are still suffering after-effects of radiation 50 years on.

Referring to France's plan to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific, Mr. Kamei said: "There is no advantage to holding nuclear power."

"The Soviet Union collapsed although it had maintained nuclear power," he said.

"In addition to that, the continued slump in the Russian economy was mainly due to huge spending on developing nuclear weapons. Countries, including the United States and China, should learn such historical facts," he added.

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Jordan Times

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Dial a winner

THERE IS a growing consensus that telephone services in this country can never be fully and adequately provided as long as they remain strictly in the hands of the state bureaucracy. There is hardly a nation that has been able to offer efficient telecommunication facilities without the involvement of the private sector in the enterprise. Jordan is not so far behind in reaching the same conclusion as Parliament is in the process of adopting new legislation that aims to transform the government-run Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) into a private but publicly owned company at first. In line with this shift in attitude, the Minister of Post and Telecommunications, Mr. Jamal Saraireh, has confirmed the failure of attempts to keep the telephone service in the hands of the government alone. He declared, in a newspaper interview three days ago, that the public sector can never afford the cost of introducing the modernisation and expansion needed for a successful enterprise, and that only through the participation of the private sector could we hope to catch up with the advanced nations in the telecommunications field.

The shortcomings of the present policy of full control by the state are obvious to the public at large. In spite of the fact that the TCC is a money-making state agency, most of its revenues are earmarked for other expenditures by the Treasury. We are in the midst of some tough preparatory work for the October Economic Conference on the Middle East and North Africa. We also seem determined to introduce market economy into the country as a prelude to coping with a new era in our history. Yet we have 120,000 pending applications for telephone lines that cannot be met. Ninety-five per cent of the existing facilities across the country have already been exhausted. The best evidence of this unsatisfactory state of affairs is the fact that only less than eight per cent of the population enjoy telephone services. In comparison, the percentages in Sweden and the U.S. are 70 and 53 respectively. Even local calls often cannot be made due to over-charged transmitters.

We certainly share the view that telephones are a basic necessity for modern living and cannot be regarded as a luxury. The ability to call a physician or a policeman when it is a matter of life or death is a basic human right that should be made available to all people who need and require it. Since the state on its own cannot offer this service then it is time to expedite the creation of the projected telecommunication company as a prelude possibly to total privatisation. The success or failure of the anticipated new company would only depend on whether it can keep its revenues for investment and continued development, managing it efficiently, and on commercial basis, is also a precondition. Otherwise the company, no matter what name we adopt for it, should expect the same fate as that faced by the TCC at the present.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WRITING IN Al Ra'i, a columnist Wednesday discussed the situation in Iraq, saying that its people have suffered a great deal for so long, and the time has come for ending the embargo five years after its imposition. Having responded favourably to all the conditions and requirements of the U.N. Security Council and shown full cooperation with the teams sent to destroy the nation's weapons, Iraq has become eligible for life again, said Sultan Al Hattab. It is shameful for the world community to perpetuate the sanction which are starving the innocent people of Iraq and it is incumbent on the Arab World to take quick steps to end the people's ordeal, said the writer. Commenting on His Majesty King Hussein's statement expressing readiness to undertake any mission designed to end the sufferings of the Iraqi people, the writer said Jordanians, who have displayed solidarity with the Iraqi people, have been and will continue to respond to the King's initiative and back his humanitarian endeavour. He said that as the world approaches the 21st century, it is expected from the international community to lift the embargo and end the injustice and save the Iraqi children, the sick and the women who are helpless and who have suffered a great deal.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour reflected on the situation in the self-rule areas of Palestine, noting that the Palestine National Authority has had to overcome numerous difficulties in building the political and economic entity which serves as an infrastructure for the Palestine state. Mohammad Kawash said that because of the initial difficulties, it was natural and reasonable for President Arafat to hold all the power and supervise every step in the creation of this entity in the initial stages. But having done that and the self-rule areas having passed the crucial stage, the time has come for Mr. Arafat to assign the different responsibilities to eligible and qualified people who should direct their attention towards giving impetus to social and economic development with the meagre resources they possess, demanded the writer. He said in order to facilitate the construction of the state, Mr. Arafat must seek the help of the teams, qualified to take over the process of construction and to pursue the negotiations with the Israelis at the political level.

The View from Academia

NASA's space-station project: An opportunity for international cooperation and peace

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

THE CONTROVERSY in the U.S. over NASA's space programmes, especially over the plan to establish a station in space, has recently intensified with opponents and proponents each trying to affirm their position. Even though the debate may seem to some a purely American issue, it is in fact an international matter of concern to present and future generations.

Put simply, the situation is as follows. Eager to make more effective its efforts to explore the universe and reap the benefits humanity expects from the space programmes, NASA is forging ahead with plans to erect a station in space. The idea is not new. It was announced a few years back; during the Reagan era, in particular, there was much talk about it. Presently, NASA is determined to carry out its plans at any expense, ignoring all the reservations and opposition tactics which the critics and opponents are expressing.

According to NASA, the benefits to be gained from its overall programmes are numerous. As one official has put it, "the future of all humanity is at stake." What this precisely means is not entirely clear from the debate, but one gathers the following. First, the journeys into space tell us a great deal about our planet Earth itself. Secondly, with world population increasing at an alarming rate and with environmental hazards and ecological disasters on the increase, no one knows when life on Earth becomes extremely uncomfortable (even impossible). Crazy as the idea may sound, no one knows when life on another planet may become a must for the population of this globe. Thirdly, a great deal of scientific knowledge has been gained and will be gained from the various space programmes. Fourthly, humanity has known a lot, and will continue to, about the universe of which we are a small part. As one person has recently said in a television show, "Imagine us asking Columbus why he would want to journey through an unknown ocean." And so forth. As for the station itself, which will be equipped with everything the astronauts and scientists need, it is to be an important link between Earth

and the other planets or parts of the universe. "Even the shuttle programmes won't mean anything in the absence of the station," says a NASA official.

The sceptics, critics and opponents have the following to say. First of all, some are not entirely sure about what will ultimately be gained from the station and the overall NASA programmes. "Most of it is more fiction than fact." Secondly, and more importantly, NASA's programmes, especially the station, are too costly.

The cost-benefit analysis dominates the current controversy. NASA is not exactly sure, the critics insist, how much the station (for example) actually costs. NASA responds by saying that it is sure. The station will cost \$28 billion to build and \$13 billion to operate for 10 years. The critics then go on to affirm that the figure they have actually heard and anticipate is in the neighbourhood of \$90 billion. There is then, they insist, an ambiguity about the total expenses. They add: What guarantees do we have (assuming that NASA's figures are clear and accurate) that NASA won't stop in the middle of construction and ask for more money? Furthermore (the opponents go on to say), why, during the present economic recession, should money be dealt to NASA freely when substantial cuts are being made in more tangible and rewarding spheres, such as medical care and education?

There is no doubt that many of the reservations just stated make a great deal of sense. Currently, most countries in the world are experiencing a real economic recession. What this means, among other things, is that nations have to be careful about the ways and means their institutions, establishments and agencies spend money. A great deal of wisdom is to be exercised. Countries have to pinpoint their priorities and allocate funds according to such priorities. And yes, medical care and education are all-important in any society. As for the U.S., what is happening right now to medical care and education is regrettable. The budget cuts that are being implemented in

these two particular spheres are extremely crippling and harmful. In the realm of education, for instance, many programmes, scholarships and research grants are being cancelled. Several people are also losing their jobs, and the employment opportunities for many graduates, especially in the humanities and the social sciences, no longer look promising. I, like many people, wish more money could be allocated to Medicare and education. One would in fact agree totally with slashing some funds from NASA's share and bestowing them on Medicare and education.

The point to emphasise is that the space station could be a peace venture for which many nations seem willing to cooperate. How many times have the U.S., Canada, Russia, Japan, and Europe worked together on a project of potential benefit to humanity — we say "potential" because we hope the NASA officials and the other countries involved mean what they say about the anticipated benefits for the world? But even though we may not be entirely sure about the motives and intentions of the countries involved and about the ultimate success or failure of the space project, one thing we are hundred per cent sure about: International cooperation is much better than international friction and conflict. I believe that such a venture, because it is a peace venture and a happy precedent, ought to be taken seriously into account in cost-benefit deliberations and ought to be given full support. A great "benefit" (to use the language of the cost-benefit rhetoricians) is derived from the mere fact that the world powers are working (or intend to) together; and a great "loss" is there when they work against each other.

The question one would like to pose here is: If there was to be a war between the U.S. and any of the powers listed above, would those who seem to champion the cause of Medicare and education give a damn about Medicare and education? Peace ventures deserve a chance, if not to redeem the 20th century a little before its demise, at least to have a more promising 21st century.

France may be courting a natural disaster

The decision to continue nuclear testing at Mururoa could trigger forces beyond the French government's control, says Pierre Vincent

SINCE 1975, all the nuclear tests carried out in the Polynesian atoll of Mururoa have been underground. Instead of being dissipated into the atmosphere, radioactive waste is now confined within the atoll. Mururoa's 138 underground explosions have produced 138 nuclear "stockpiles" located at depths of between 500 and 1,400 metres.

Is this enormous reservoir of radioactive waste self-contained and completely cut off from the outside environment? This is a question that was asked very early on. The government's response has always been that underground nuclear tests pollute neither the sea nor the atmosphere.

When he announced his decision to resume testing in Polynesia, President Jacques Chirac adopted that point of view: the tests, he said, had "absolutely no ecological consequences." His optimism was based on several reports which concluded that the level of radioactivity in Mururoa was low.

Leaving aside the reservations that have been expressed about the reports' conclusions, sometimes by their authors themselves, the question is: may we extrapolate those results, as the official experts are now doing, and conclude that there is no risk in the resumption of tests? Most certainly not.

The possibility that with time, or following further explosions, increased fracturing may open up the system and allow the gradual migration of radioactive elements into the sea or the atmosphere has frequently been evoked. It is a very real risk, but one which would not necessarily imply any major change in the morphology of the atoll.

On the other hand, the risk of a sudden opening up of the system in the course of a test, which would occur if a flank of the island sheared off into the sea, has received little attention. Yet recent data on the destabilisation of volcanoes, particularly island volcanoes, shows that such a scenario needs to be taken into consideration. Like all Polynesian atolls, Mururoa is an extinct volcano which has been eroded down to sea level and then, under the effect of its own weight, has sunk below sea level at a slow enough rate (an average of millimetre a year) for the coral reef to offset the process of submersion.

The reef varies in thickness, going down to a maximum depth of 450 metres. The base of the volcano

rests on the sea floor at a depth of 3,000 metres. Its sides are very steep: the top 1,000 metres have a mean slope of 40 per cent, while the 200 metres closest to the surface are almost vertical.

Because of the circulation of large masses of water, the materials that form an island volcano undergo a process of weathering which continues after it has ceased to be active. The intensity of that weathering increases with time and, as a result, the cohesion of the material decreases.

During the time the Mururoa volcano was active, parts of its flanks must have sheared off at least twice, as can be seen from dents in its northwestern and southern coastline. In the latter case, the section which sheared off was five kilometres wide and 2,000 metres deep — which gives some idea of the volumes involved. These observations suggest very strongly that the Mururoa volcano has an internal structure which is conducive to destabilisation.

An abrupt destabilisation of a volcano was observed and understood for the first time when Mount St. Helens, in the United States, erupted on May 8, 1980. That day, three cubic kilometres of the north flank of the volcano broke away and rushed downhill, like a huge rock avalanche, for a distance of 25 kilometres from the summit, leaving the volcano decapitated.

Over the past 12 years, research into the problem, which is fundamental from a monitoring point of view, has shown that this is a normal and frequent phenomenon in the case of volcanoes that have reached a certain stage in their evolution.

The main factors conducive to the destabilisation of a volcano, apart from the steepness of its sides, are first its fracturing, and secondly its weathering.

The fracturing of the upper part of the Mururoa volcano is chiefly the result of the 138 underground nuclear blasts to which it has been subjected. Each blast creates an explosion cavity, which is surrounded by a fracture zone roughly five times larger than the

cavity, and from which a shaft of collapsed rock extends upwards for a distance of three to five times the cavity's diameter.

Until 1988, all explosions were conducted beneath the coral ring. Its small size meant that the detonation shafts had to be bored very close to each other. Except, possibly, in two cases, the explosions were of less than 150 kilotonnes, or the equivalent of 10 bombs of the kind dropped on Hiroshima. The total explosive force of underground blasts since 1975 is probably the equivalent of some 200 Hiroshima-type bombs.

It is fair to assume that the fractured or fissured zone around each cavity forms a sphere with a diameter of between 200 and 500 metres, depending on the force of the explosion, its depth and the type of rock involved. Such figures can only be approximate because they have been arrived at through a process of comparison with blasts conducted at sites of a different nature. The true figures remain confidential.

It would seem inevitable that many of the networks of fractures surrounding the cavities are connected with each other, with the result that if one of them opened up to the outside environment there would also be a spill-out of radioactive elements from the others.

Even when there are no direct interconnections between them, the explosion cavities and their upward shafts of collapsed rock, which are close together in some sections of the coral ring, invite comparison with the holes quarrymen drill and then fill with explosives in order to cause large chunks of rock to shear away. One could almost say that the upper part of the underground volcano is now "pre-perforated."

That being the case, what now needs to be established is whether or not the energy generated by further blasts would be capable of destabilising a segment of the coral ring, or even a whole flank of the volcano, as already occurred when the volcano was still active. A basaltic volcanic eruption of 100 kilotonnes would be a small one. But such a comparison is not significant insofar as we are talking about total energy, which in the case of a volcanic eruption consists of more than 95 per cent thermal energy.

In a nuclear explosion, the proportion of mechanical energy is much higher. The blast exerts a degree of pressure on the sides of the cavity that has no equivalent in the natural world, except when giant meteorites hit the Earth (with an impact of 10 million or more atmospheres), and energy is released in a fraction of a second.

The resulting shock wave vapourises or fuses the surrounding materials, then fractures them beyond the cavity and makes the sea seethe as it emerges from the volcanic structure. The earthquake that occurs in conjunction with the shock wave weakens that structure and may even cause surface damage in the case of larger blasts set off too close to the surface (which would seem to be the case with the 120-kilotonne blast of July 25, 1979). It seems certain that his mechanical energy is appreciably higher than any which the volcano could have experienced during its period of activity.

All the factors now known to be conducive to the destabilisation of volcanoes — major weathering and fracturing of materials, and steep sides — are present at Mururoa. In view of that fact, the shock wave produced by one of the planned new explosions, even if it were conducted beneath the lagoon, could be big enough to cause one or more in the large "pre-perforated" blocks to shear away. This situation, which has no parallel anywhere else, can only be described as high-risk.

The immediate consequence of such a destabilisation would be a sudden spill-out of part of the radioactive "stockpile" into the sea and the formation of a tidal wave — or, more accurately speaking, a tsunami — which would threaten the lives of those living not only in Mururoa but in neighbouring archipelagos.

It is unlikely that Mr. Chirac was informed about this alarming aspect of the problem before he took his decision. Pierre Vincent is emeritus professor at the Université Blaise-Pascal in Clermont-Ferrand and a member of its Volcanological Research Centre. The article is reprinted from Le Monde.

LETTERS

Faulty behaviour: whose fault?

To the Editor:

DR. ABDULLAH AL KHATIB's complaint about the embassy and accusing the consular section of the faulty behaviour (Letter to the Editor, Jordan Times, July 30) needs some rectification in order to be more accurate.

Since March 26, with the new Schengen-visa policy, the embassy cannot any longer issue visas for three countries (Benelux) in the same day. Due to the required consultation among the Schengen countries a waiting time of three to four weeks is indeed required. In certain cases for resident and student visas the delay might even be longer. In Dr. Khatib's case, a Benelux (V.T.L.) visa, which is only granted in some exceptional or emergency cases, was requested and therefore an urgent consultation with our Benelux-partner in Damascus was necessary.

It seemed that Dr. Khatib did not like the idea of waiting at least one day, since he destroyed his visa application and insulted our Jordanian employee. Nevertheless, his file was immediately introduced by fax to the Dutch embassy in Damascus.

We advise him to write a letter to the Schengen-presidency in Brussels complaining about the actual three-week delay. We sincerely do hope that it might contribute to the reduction of the waiting time. However, he does not mention anything about the Schengen-visa advantages: One formality, one single visa for seven countries, one fee and a validity of up to one year. Moreover, we want to add that all our visa documents are translated into Arabic.

It seems Dr. Khatib has more time to spend writing letters and inspecting the premises of the embassy instead of concentrating on his own visa application. After all, we have a reputation of being very helpful towards official institutions and individuals equally. We are sorry that we do not have a bigger infrastructure at our disposal.

We invite Dr. Khatib for a coffee and an inspection of our new premises, located 688/H Wara Boumedienne Street, as from the September "Sans Rancune" and Ahlen wa Sahlan!

Royal Belgian Embassy, Amman.

TCC's puzzling policies

To the Editor:

AS MUCH as I agree with Jafar Salem's complaint about the need for telephone directory (Jordan Times, Aug. 1, 1995), I believe the bigger problem is the non-availability of telephone lines in Jordan. This issue puzzles me because:

■ Communication projects yield the highest returns in the world, and the fastest growing sector for the last decade has been the communications sector.

■ Any expansion or addition of lines to the current system can be easily financed, and can give the TCC substantial returns.

■ Additional lines mean additional revenue, and hence greater profits for the TCC.

■ The lost opportunities and business encountered everyday due to the lack of telephone lines cannot be accurately estimated, but I am sure the figure is in the hundreds of millions of dinars per year.

■ The average waiting period for a new telephone line in any modern country does not exceed 48 hours, while in Jordan I know people who have been waiting for eight years.

■ In today's world, every citizen, has the right to basic services, such as water, sewage and electricity; and telephones have become one of those necessities.

■ The TCC is trying to privatise, yet it is not taking any steps to maximise its value by providing better service. Perhaps soon, otherwise its value will start diminishing, advancing very rapidly, and it is only a matter of time before all telecommunications become wireless. This will enable people to buy World Phones that can connect them by satellite from any point to any other point on the surface of the globe, hence bypassing the local TCC's for each country.

On a final note, I strongly object to the system whereby people who pay triple fees get priority for telephone lines. This is discrimination against the poor. This is clearly unconstitutional.

Marwan M. Aballa, Amman.

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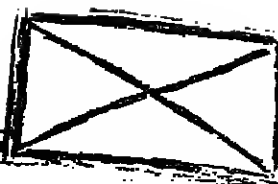
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Weekender



Aug. 3, 1995

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Published Every Thursday

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

He must be doing something right

Although Akham Qussous retired for the second, but final time, more than two weeks ago as director of the prime minister's office, it was not until last week that his successor was named. Perhaps the strategy was to fill in the advisory and press office posts first, then move to the equally if not more demanding seat of office director. Demanding it must have been because Mr. Qussous, who tried to bow out one time but was recalled to the post, was said to be "really tired." Surely the strain of all that shuffling during the peace talks as chief negotiator Abdul Salam Majali's right hand person, followed immediately by duties at the Prime Ministry could take its toll on the most vigorous. Now in to fill the seat vacated by Mr. Qussous is Salim Kheir, whose experience as private secretary to former prime ministers Zaid Rifai, Mudar Badran and Taher Masri, and serving Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, should serve him well. The 41-year-old Mr. Kheir is an international relations graduate of the University of Colorado in the U.S. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after completing his studies and spent four years there before moving to the Prime Ministry. Of his new post he echoes Mr. Qussous: "It's hard work, but it is always interesting working for the prime minister." Of him, his colleagues say, "He's a very nice man to work with."

Say cheese: Egyptian Ambassador Waji Hamdi was all smiles as he and Mrs. Hamdi received guests at their reception marking Egypt's national day last week. While the number of officials present was reported to be small, (unlike the large turnout for the Iraqi national day gala a week earlier), the diplomatic corps made a good showing. In fact, one would be hard pressed to believe that the peace between Egypt and Israel was still cool considering that nearly all the staff of the Israeli embassy in Amman appeared at the Egyptian event. With few officials to photograph, and photographers "shying away" from snapping at the Israeli diplomats, it was no wonder that Al Dustour nearly filled a quater of a page on the affair with photos of the paper's former editor-in-chief Mahmoud Sharif, chief editor Dr. Nabil Sharif and his wife Manal Abu Elsheh Sharif.

A matter of protocol: Arriving from Tokyo Monday night was Japanese Ambassador-designate to Amman Takayuki Kimura, who succeeds Ambassador Yuji Ikeda, now special ambassador to the Middle East peace process. As the new envoy awaits to present his credentials, embassy officials politely declined to release any information on him. But we learned that he was most recently director of the Japanese Cultural Centre in the U.K. With such a background, and the issuance of the Tokyo Declaration during His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Japan to attend Jordan Week, we may well witness the birth of a Japanese cultural centre in Amman during Mr. Kimura's tenure. In the meantime, Ahlan Wa Sahlan!

And the nominees are... The Beijing conference, officially known as the Fourth U.N. World Conference on Women, is just around the corner, and as part of the preparations the Palestinian parliament has organised a 3-day conference for women parliamentarians from Muslim countries which is scheduled to conclude today. The Pakistani embassy here explained that it had requested that the Jordanian Parliament nominate the women parliamentarians to attend the conference. The nominees submitted by parliament were Senators Leila Sharaf and Leila Rashdan. Obviously the only other woman parliamentarian was Deputy Tawaj Faisal, whose name apparently never came up. Mrs. Sharaf, we were told, had a prior commitment. So, representing Jordan's women parliamentarians, although not an elected official, was Senator Rashdan, who left for Islamabad last week. A Palestinian woman's delegation made up of Leila Khaled, Hind Hussein and Lusia Tawfiq Hijazi was



Newly-weds Jalal Ghayazeh and Eman Abuzeid

also expected to participate. The conference was to be inaugurated by Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and attended by the prime ministers of Turkey and Bangladesh, all leading women in their own right. On the agenda for discussion were three major themes: Projection of Islam as a religion of equality, tolerance and non-discrimination; problems common to women in Muslim countries and their solutions; and effectiveness of women's role in economic development.

Public exposure: If you have been spending months wondering just what those folks were up to... the cat is out of the bag. The Jordanian-American Commission for Educational Exchange (JACEE), also known as the Binational Fulbright Commission in Jordan, has awarded 10 grants to Jordanian scholars, students and professionals for the 1995-96 academic years following the results of the commission's annual competition for these prestigious awards. The commission scored nearly 100 per cent in evenly distributing the grants among women and men. And although the competition is open to public and private universities, research centres and non-governmental organisations, clearly the public universities were the big winners. The reason is simple, says JACEE Executive Director Alain McNamara. "The candidates from the state universities were best able to meet the most rigid criteria -- it was a matter of the calibre of the nominations." The Fulbright research grants were awarded to Dr. Hasem Anabtawi of the University of Jordan, physical educationist, affiliated with Indiana University; Dr. Mohammad Attalah, Yarmouk University, earth and environmental sciences, affiliated with New Mexico Institute for Mining and Technology; Dr. Issam Moussa, Yarmouk University, journalism, affiliated with Washington State University; and Dr. Abdel Rahim Abu Sweilem, Muna University, English, affiliated with the University of Illinois. The Fulbright foreign study grants went to Mr. Mutasim Ghazawi, University of Jordan, for a Ph.D. in pharmacology at Oregon State University; Ms. Susan Ramadan, Yarmouk University, for a Ph.D. in English literature at Pennsylvania State University; Ms. Maysoon Nahat, University of Jordan, for a Ph.D. in archaeology at Arizona State University; Ms. Laila Omari,

Muto University, for a Ph.D. in English at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (which is in fact the name of the institution and not an error); Ms. Amneh Akour, University of Jordan, for a masters degree in electronic engineering at Iowa State University; and Mr. Bani Salameh, Yarmouk University, for a masters degree in political science at Clark Atlanta University. In addition, two non-degree, nine-month grants combining academic and professional study programmes in the U.S. for mid-level professionals from the private and public sectors were awarded to Ms. Nisreen Mazahreh, an economic analyst at the Ministry of Supply, to the University of Minnesota, and Mr. Arafat H. Fayoumi, assistant head of local credit facilities at the Central Bank of Jordan, to Boston University. "These scholars and students represent Jordan's best and brightest," claims Mr. McNamara. "We congratulate them and wish them a successful and fruitful experience in the U.S."

A good bedside manner: It is customary for some patients to give their surgeons and nurses tokens of appreciation for the care and attention these health professionals accord them, but placing an advertisement in a newspaper introduces a new dimension, particularly when it is placed by a former leader of a neighbouring country. Here for open heart surgery at the Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery was former Syrian Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Halaby. In an advertisement he placed in a local daily, Mr. Halaby thanked, in big bold letters, Dr. Daoud Hananla, director general of the large medical facility for his great efforts and for those of everyone else at the centre. Mr. Halaby said he was grateful also to Dr. Hananla for "his humane feelings which he voiced to me while I was recuperating." The founders of the centre always said they envisioned their health care establishment as a centre of professional excellence that would attract patients from the entire region. Perhaps Mr. Halaby's advertisement is the pulse they are looking for.

As fate would have it: When Tunisian businessman Jalal Ghayazeh came to Amman from his base in Dubai looking for some legal advice, little did he know that the lawyer

he was advised to consult would one day be his bride. Last week Mr. Ghayazeh wed international commercial law expert Eman Abuzeid, daughter of the dean of all Jordanian information ministers, Salah Abuzeid, and Fomla Abuzeid. Growing up with a father who was Jordan's first minister of information, and later foreign minister, minister of tourism, adviser to His Majesty King Hussein, and twice ambassador, to London, Eman set out on her own professional path. After obtaining her bachelors and masters degrees in law from Bristol University in the U.K., she established the legal affairs department at Royal Jordanian in 1990 and headed it until she resigned earlier this year to return to her private practice. Her husband Jalal, is the son of Tawfiq and Habiba Ghayazeh of Safakis, Tunisia, where the newlyweds are headed in a few days to take their vows again in a ceremony à la Tunisienne. The families celebrated the happy occasion in Amman with two dinners for 200 relatives and close friends -- one at the Abuzeid residence, the other in the garden of Romero's Restaurant. The couple will reside in Dubai, but Eman's clients need not fear. She plans on maintaining her practice by shuttling between Amman and Dubai -- as soon as the couple return from their open-ended honeymoon, that is.

Animal lovers unite: When J.T. columnist Waleed Sa'di returned this week from a vacation in Turkey, he found 34 letters in his "box" in the newsroom, all of them mailed from Italy. The content of each one was nearly identical, save for the signatories and their addresses from all over the Italian republic. The letters read: "Dear Mr. Sa'di, Thank you for your article, 'Animals have rights too,' which appeared in the Jordan Times of March 20, 1995. We wish you'll go on in spreading such ideas in your country, we are all on your side. Yours truly." A few letters came from animal rights groups, some were written on recycled paper, and one bore the signatures of 12 Bolognese animal lovers. We were not able to determine who among the writers had actually seen the original J.T. column penned by Dr. Sa'di, but we were unphased. It was just gratifying to see a group from another country mobilised to do something that they believed strongly in and lend a word of support to a comrade-in-spirit across the Mediterranean.

And tour operators beware: While some Italians care quite seriously about the treatment of animals, some local tour operators could not care less about the humans who just happen to be their bread and butter. But justice is on the way because Minister of Tourism Abdul Ilah Khatib means business. When it was reported in the press last week that the ministry was urging all travel and tour agencies to make good on their promises to clients, what prompted that "urging" was a report on two local tour operators who were discovered to be guilty of some rather unscrupulous practices. According to Mr. Khatib one of these agencies, which he declined to name in the hope that it would mend its ways, arranged a bus trip to Turkey for a group of Jordanian tourists. When the tourists arrived to the hotel designated on their itinerary, they found they had no reservations and were "thrown out in the streets." After some manoeuvring, they were able to check into another hotel. But when it was time for them to leave, the hotel refused to release the tourists' passports. All wrath fell on the agency which arranged the trip. The ministry sought out the perpetrators and forced them to compensate the victimised tourists for their hardship. Mr. Khatib said the ministry wants to make absolutely clear that any such violations of ministry regulations will be met with the most severe penalties and fines, and, if need be, revocation of agency licenses. The minister was emphatic about protecting the rights of all tourists, and said no fraudulent activity would be tolerated.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Cool summer of contempt

The Macmillan Years: The Emerging Truth

By Richard Lamb
John Murray 545pp £25

A British prime minister of international reputation resigns. Against the odds, the new prime minister, catapulted into Downing Street after a vicious leadership battle, manages to win reelection. He struggles through a crisis over Britain's role in Europe, a series of rows with the American allies, economic slumps and sporadic party revolts, and heads for a new election against a rejuvenated Labour Party as sleaze and ominous official inquiries pile upon him.

The parallels between John Major and Harold Macmillan were always intriguing, in spite of the legend of leisurely competence and unflappable vision Macmillan managed to concoct in his own memoirs and in the approved hagiography by Alistair Horne. But the delvings by Richard Lamb into the cabinet papers, newly opened under the 30-year rule, make the parallels compelling.

It is now plain, despite official denials, that Macmillan sought to interfere with the course of justice in the Profumo affair by trying to get the police to delay the arrest of Stephen Ward on charges of living off immoral earnings. Selling arms to Iraq may lack the spice of a Soviet naval attaché and a British minister for war sharing the favours of a tart. But the squalid evasions of the Macmillan and Major governments, faced with such scandals, have a great deal in common.

So do their foreign policies. Official legend has it that Anglo-American relations were rarely better than when Macmillan patched up the rows over Suez with President Eisenhower, his old wartime comrade-in-arms, then played the fatherly role to a grateful John Kennedy. The cabinet papers belie the claim. There were bitter disputes over U.S. insistence on being able to fire Polaris missiles almost as soon as they left the quayside at Holy Loch, whatever the British government might splutter about the need for London's consent. There were rows about the Middle East, Laos and U.S. threats to use nuclear weapons, against China.

The supposed high summer of the special relationship was so cool that on the eve of the Cuban missile crisis, Macmillan doubted whether it meant anything at all, and sent the Foreign Office a

questionnaire, asking them to define it. It certainly did not include, as the FO tried to suggest, an automatic consultation in the event of a crisis. There was nothing "special" about the way Kennedy waited a full week after learning of the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba before informing the British. By that time, American policy had been set.

The Americans had only contempt for the way Macmillan tried to use them for his electoral advantage. He brought Eisenhower to London on the eve of the 1959 election, and invited Kennedy to stay at his private country home, Birch Grove, in 1963. The Americans ignored Macmillan's grandiose agenda for world statesmen and insisted on talking only about British Guyana, where they feared a new Castro-like government might bring Marxism to the mainland.

As Kennedy arrived at Birch Grove, he carried a note from his ambassador in London, David Bruce, warning that Macmillan's government was "mortally wounded" by the Profumo affair.

A refugee's ordeal

Images of the Grey Departure

By Youssef Jameel

This book is a semi-historical, semi-autobiographical account of the period that begins with the occupation of Palestine and the subsequent establishment of the state of Israel, and ends in 1992, the date of the book's publication.

Contained within the account's autobiographical sections, is the writer's description of his personal ordeal as a refugee, fleeing the atrocities of war in a historical tragedy which he was witness to.

The style is transparent, emotional; not offset by a rigid political science style of presentation. Here, facts are interwoven with personal eyewitness accounts, ranging from the loss of a country, to life at its borders in a refugee camp. The Egyptian revolution, the ascent of the Ba'ath Party to power in both Syria and Iraq, the establishment of the PLO, the Arab summit conferences, the 1967 and 1973 wars, the Lebanese Civil War are some of the incidents scrutinised by the writer.

The style may be termed "literary-political" for the writer paces through half a century of Arab political events coloured by his personalised view. He begins from his experiences as a 7-year-old in the Palestinian village of Kufr Kannah: "I remember the beginning," Jameel writes, "voices of bombs, showers of

bullets, fear, horror encircling all."

The pictures the writer draws are gloomy, a hasty departure from the village: "I remember when I got tired my father carried me, adding thus an extra burden on him while mounting those heights and running away with the others through paths stricken with thorns and sharp rocky edges. I'm looking with fearful eyes at my father who was exhausted by his human burden and at my silent mother. I remember her with her tears and her children's embrace."

The camp he describes as "exposed to the sun: its glow whips us and thorns on the road eat into our feet and the winter pinches us. Home is a tent and in the tent I grew; the tent which got wide to the point of engulfing our exile and homelessness."

The writer then goes on to describe contemporary historical events in the Arab World. He draws on an Arab reality marked by disunity before 1967, but to which dignity was restored by the 1968 Karameh Battle. The writer finally brings us into the present decade with the intifada, which, according to the writer, was the final incident that led Israel to follow the path of peace.

Published by Yarmouk University Press, it is Youssef Jameel's second book.

Muhammad D. Tahboub

BOOK REVIEWS

Gaulle's apparent readiness to grant Britain EEC membership in return for nuclear secrets, gets too little attention. Another 60 pages refresh the very messy process of decolonisation in Africa. By contrast, the 1959 general election, economic policy and the two key Chancellors, Selwyn Lloyd and Maudling, get 40 pages all told.

This odd ordering of priorities combines with a broad lack of analysis to produce archivism, rather than history. And Lamb's archivism is not wholly reliable. Overwhelmed by source material in the Public Record Office, he seems unaware of vivid aspects of the Cuban crisis: the presence of Soviet tactical nuclear weapons; and Kennedy's secret deal with Khrushchev to remove the U.S. missile bases in Turkey. Macmillan's memoirs say he would "never have consented". The Americans never bothered to tell him -- The Guardian.

Martin Walker



No more toys

By Jean-Claude Elias

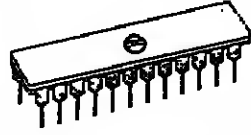
Having been in the computer business for nearly twenty years now, I have preconceived ideas, full of scepticism towards new products. Even if this attitude sadly reveals my age (and hopefully my experience), it has often helped me avoid unnecessary hardware purchases and wasting time testing poor programmes.

Until now notebooks — those amazing small sized, fully integrated computers — hadn't made it to my list of "professionally accepted" products. Though in the market since about 1988, portable computers were constantly well behind full size, desktop machines in terms of characteristics. In my opinion their small size and light weight were just not enough to cover their weaknesses, though I suspect that even the early models must have helped many a travelling businessman or salesman perform his job.

Before 1995, notebooks' major flaw was a poor quality screen display, monochrome for most. Rechargeable batteries, in the best case, would make them work for four to six short hours only. Even the processing power (processor speed, memory and disk capacity) were not really up to professional standards. All this has changed now.

New models can proudly compete with their big desktop brothers. Displays with active colours — much better than passive screens — will show you superb colours and super fine characters and graphics resolution. Even Pentium processors are now available in the magic A4 notebook format. Some models can be fitted with 16 or 32 MB (million characters)

chip talk



memory and 540 MB hard disks. More than enough to run any piece of software. Need a built-in fax-modem? No problem, it's been made so small that you won't even notice it's inside the notebook.

The biggest breakthrough however, the one that converted me, is the new type of batteries: they will keep you computing for 10 hours in a row before they need recharging. That's practically two days of work, or a very long one. Or a non-stop Amman-Singapore flight with the notebook on your laptop.

Convincing the most sceptical, the new types of hard disks that notebooks are equipped with can withstand higher levels of shocks and vibrations, making the machines truly heavy-duty and suitable for war reporters or other "hard field" situations.

The very demanding can ask for a built-in pointer. It's integrated in the keyboard and comes as a very handy replacement for a mouse. Unless one doesn't use Windows, a mouse or a similar pointing device is a must.

Yesterday's toys have graduated to professional machines and we've grown a little bit older.

The oddities of culture

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Personal safety, the freedom from risk and injury, and product design have lately become the targets of a worldwide campaign the declared aim of which is to improve the safety of all individuals, whether at home, at work or out on the streets.

Some of the main issues that are being targeted include the accessibility by children to harmful substances when left unsupervised in the home, hazardous materials and machinery in the workplace and the technologies used to test the safety features in the latest car designs.

But while it remains generally accepted that the first steps to be undertaken in any such campaign should be a bundle of surveys that would help identify which products and which packaging design are causing what kinds of accidents and which age group is more liable to suffer such accidents, several societies remain lagging behind where such statistics are concerned.

Certainly manufacturers, and industry as a whole, have got a duty to their customers to provide them with safe products. Any warning signs on such products should be easily understood and clearly legible.

The latest crash tests for vehicles have highlighted a certain design fault in some small cars of the hatchback category where the back seats could be pulled down to give more storage room in the trunk. The problem was that when heavy items were stored in the trunk, these times where generally thrown forward, through the back seats and into the passenger compartment placing the passengers in these seats in the very grave position where they were likely to be crushed under the weight of such items.

And the problem? It seemed that the blame lay with the pins that held the back of the seats. All such car models where recalled and fitted with stiffer supports.

In the more developed societies, the fascination with safety has taken a twisted turn. Faith in the idea of being able to sue manufacturers for compensation has grown to such an extent that it has become a dangerous element. As companies fear that they will be sued over an unsafe product or an injury sustained as a result of a faulty design, the process of product improvement in a competitive market has become filled with risks.

In the medical field, doctors are being burdened by insurance against litigation and new medical technology is being assessed on its legal implications as well as on its possible benefits.

In such cultures where the fear of compensation bangs over just about anything, risks will not be taken because the potential cost is too high. And lawyers have a cunning talent for subverting sense when their fees are at stake.

Rather than accepting life as intrinsically dangerous, people are tending to assume that there is a right to safety which can be infinitely extended.

What remains really amusing about this whole condition is that the demands for safety within this culture of compensation have developed in parallel to another culture where risk and danger are just about everything. This is the culture where dangerous forms of entertainment are hip, e.g. bungee-jumping, and where movies embrace the fantasy of destruction and violent triumph.

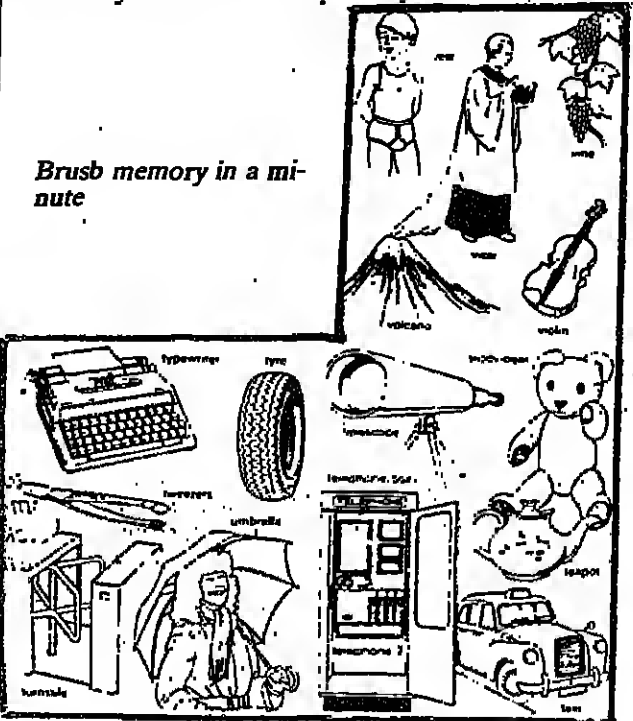
In real life, we demand safety. While at the same time, we demand danger from the realms of fantasy. We want to feel danger, but only from a distance.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

TEST YOUR MEMORY

Examine the pictures below and then state how many of them you could identify. They all count 15.



Brush memory in a minute

ASTOUNDING FACTS

★ A normal adult pulse rate is 70-72 beats per minute

at rest for males, and 78-82 for females. This can increase to 200 or more during violent exercise or drop to as low as 12 in the extreme case of Dorothy Mae Stevens who recorded the lowest pulse ever taken by doctors when she was found in an alley in Chicago on Feb. 1, 1951. Her temperature (59 F) returned to normal after 12 hours.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ The longest heart stoppage is a minimum of 3 hours 32 minutes in the case of Miss Jean Jawborne, 20, who was revived by a team of 26, using peritoneal dialysis, in Winnipeg Medical Centre, Manitoba, Canada, on Jan. 19, 1977.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ G. Stuart Keith of the American Museum of Natural History, shown below with a Fiji lory, has sighted more than 5,000 different species of birds.



LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— What sort of a man is he? Ayyo anwa ar'rijal howa?

— He's sociable and always optimistic.

How litema'e wa da'imam mutafa'el.

— What kinds of drinks do you like? Ayyo anwa'ul mashrobat akthar tafdeelan indaka?

— Mango, strawberry and orange juices.

Ass'ir al-mango, wal-farawla wal-burtuqal.

— What people did you meet yesterday? Ayyan'as qabalta ams?

— The young and the old, the rich and the poor, the weak and the strong.

As-sigbar wal-kibar, al-aghneya wal-fuqara, ad-du'afa wal-aqweya.

— Which way shall you go? Ayya tareek sawfa nas'lok?

— The shortest and the safest.

At-tareek al-aqsar wal-aslam.

— What places have you visited lately? Ayyal amaakin zurtaha fil-fatra'at-akhira?

— All the Asian and African capitals in the Middle East.

Kollal awasin al-asya'wiya wal-ifreeqiya fish'sharq el-awsat.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

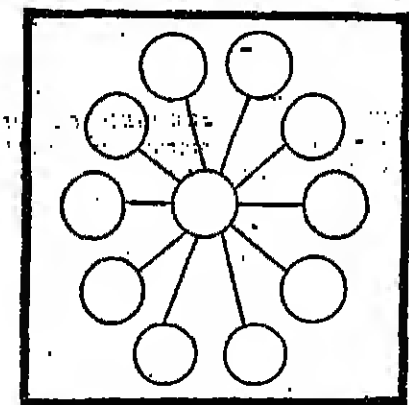
BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. In horse riding, what is a "crupper"?
2. In boxing, what is a "south-paw"?
3. Pall mall is a London Street, but what was pall mall when it was not a street?
4. In angling, what is a "galf"?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

Can you arrange the numbers from 1 to 11 in the circles shown so that the total of the numbers along any straight line is the same as any other total?



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 3

1:30 Iris-The Happy Professor

1:40 Noddy

2:00 Fireman Sam

2:15 My Secret Identity

2:30 N.B.A.

3:00 Pirates Island

3:30 Take Your Pick

4:00 I Witness Video

5:00 Spirou

5:30 Varieties And Game Show — Le Monde Est A Vous

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Magazine — Portrait D'Alain Cavalier

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 National Geographic

8:30 The Album Show

9:15 Murder She Wrote

10:00 News In English

10:25 Movie — Miss American Beauty

Starring: Diane Lane & Cloris Leachman

The story of a pretty and energetic young university student who enters the state of Texas beauty pageant to gain a scholarship and further her music studies.

12:00 Shogun

Friday, Aug. 4

1:00 Read-A-All Deed-A-All

1:15 Beethoven

1:30 Why-I didn't Think Of That

2:00 White Fang

2:30 Movie — Bonanza: The Return

Starring: Ben Johnson & Michael London JR

The story of patriarch Ben Cartwright and his three sons all from different mothers...

4:00 The Crystal Maze

5:00 Spirou

5:30 Telefilm — Rhesus Romeo

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Magazine — E=M6

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 African Skies

8:00 Coach

8:30 Jordan Today

9:15 Wild Side

10:00 News In English

10:25 Movie — Switching Parents

Starring: Bill Smitrovich & Kathleen York

The movie tells the passionate story of a boy who has for a long time suffered from his parents' ill-relationship. He soon gets adopted by another family who treat him as a "son."

12:00 The Powers That Be

Saturday, Aug. 5

2:00 Back To The Future

2:50 Harry And The Hendersons

3:00 Road To Avonlea

4:00 Families

5:00 Spirou

5:30 Documentary — C'est Pas Sorcier

6:00 Place En Garde A Vue

7:00 Le Journal

7:30 News Headlines

8:00 Major Dad

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Drama — Dr. Quinn-Medicine Woman

10:00 News In English

10:20 Touch And Die

Starring: Martin Sheen & Veronique Jannot

The story of an American journalist in Rome who is assigned to cover the murders of three people. His investigations reveal a conspiracy by covert arms dealers to smuggle nuclear materials to Third World nations.

11:30 The Hidden Room

12:00 Grace Under Fire

11:30 Fortunate Pilgrim

Sunday, Aug. 6

2:00 The Flintstones

2:30 The Mighty Jungle

3:00 Pugwall's Summer

3:30 Movie Magic

4:00 Families

5:00 Spirou

5:30 La Marche Du Siecle

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Ushuaia: Le Magazine De L'Extreme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Tomorrow's World

8:00 Nurses

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Strathblair

10:00 News In English

10:25 Touch And Die

11:30 The Hidden Room

12:00 Grace Under Fire

Monday, Aug. 7

2:00 The Animals Of Farthing Wood

2:30 Hey Dad!

3:00 Survival

4:00 Families

5:00 Spirou

5:30 Telefilm — Graziel

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 French Varieties

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Camp Wilder

8:00 McHale's Navy

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Harts Of The West

10:00 News In English

10:25 The Ruth Rendell's Mysteries — Murder Being Once Done

11:00 Movie — Antony And Cleopatra

Starring: Charlton Heston & Hildegard Neil

12:00 Keeping Up Appearances

Tuesday, Aug. 8

2:00 Captain Planet

2:30 M.A.N.T.I.S.

3:00 The Road To Avonlea

4:00 Families

5:00 Spirou

5:30 Magazine — Montagne

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Magazine — Fant Pas Rever

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 You Bet Your Life

8:00 Piglet Files

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Urban Angel

10:00 News In English

10:25 Death Of Apartheid

11:30 New York Undercover

12:00 Keeping Up Appearances

Wednesday, Aug. 9

2:00 Problem Child

2:30 Soper Champs

3:00 Tomorrow's World

3:30 Amazing Stories

4:00 Families

5:00 Spirou

5:30 Detective Telefilm — Nestor Burma

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Ushuaia

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe

8:00 Anything For A Laugh

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Heart Of Healing

10:00 News In English

10:25 Prism

10:45 Blue Skies

11:45 Separate But Equal

Stars in trouble ease PR damage in different ways

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Hugh Grant finally has finished his rounds of the TV talk shows, having added a new wrinkle to the science of Hollywood spin control: career rescue by public expiation.

Arrested in flagrante with a sunset strip hooker, Grant faced significant damage to his squeaky-clean image and new sta-

tus as a big-money Hollywood player. But his televised confessions, which coincided with promotion for his new movie, *Nine Months*, seem to have repaired much of the damage.

"It's a no-win situation," observes veteran film publicist Harry Klein. "The best you can hope for is to come out breathing, and Grant seems to have done that... If he had hidden from something

like this, it probably would have gotten much worse."

Longtime publicist Bruce Feldman agrees Grant used the right strategy.

"He was able to put himself out in public, show that he had a good sense of humor and was somewhat humble," Feldman said. "He made himself accessible, so his interviewers weren't too hard on him."

Feldman cited another effective use of mass media to quell a scandal, this one the mammoth cost overruns on *Waterworld*, a Universal Pictures release.

"Kevin Costner is out there with Letterman and all over the place, being friendly and cheerful," said Feldman. "People really like him, and he's showing himself to be very likeable. I think the picture has turned a real corner as a result."

Meanwhile, actor Charlie Sheen is taking the hush-hush approach after getting caught with his pants down.

Last week, the scion of the Sheen-Estvez family sweated through a videotape he made for a federal jury in the trial of Hollywood Madam Heidi Fleiss on charges of tax evasion and money laundering.

Sheen admitted that he had ordered Fleiss' call girls at least 27 times, running up a tab of more than \$50,000.

The 29-year-old actor issued a statement

through a spokesman apologizing to "my family, my future wife, my close friends, for any embarrassment these incidents may have caused."

But that was it. Unlike Grant, there have been no shamefaced comments to Jay, no sorrowful afterthoughts with Dave. Apparently, Sheen's approach is to clam up.

Publicists generally feel Sheen has done the right thing. After all, how can he set in Leno's or Letterman's couch and chat about shelling out \$1,500 to \$3,000 for "heterosexual services," and once on Christmas Day, no less?

Sheen might take heart from the examples of past stars who became embroiled in scandals but whose careers survived nicely with little or no spin control.

In 1935, Mary Astor was sued by her ex-husband for custody of their daughter on the grounds the actress was an unsuitable mother. The evidence was her diary, which purported to list her affairs with famous Holly-

wood males. Miss Astor won the suit, and the diary was never revealed. Her career thrived for decades, highlighted by an Academy Award as Best Supporting Actress in 1941 for *The Great Lie*.

Errol Flynn at the height of his career in 1942 was tried for statutory rape of two teenage girls on his yacht. He was acquitted, and he became a bigger star than ever. "In Like Flynn" became a national catch phrase.

In 1948, Robert Mitchum was arrested while smoking marijuana with a starlet in her apartment. The married actor served two months in the county slammer and emerged so much in demand that Howard Hughes bought his contract from David Selznick for \$200,000.

The rising star Carole Landis committed suicide in 1948, reportedly because her lover, Rex Harrison, would not leave his wife. Harrison left Hollywood soon after the tragedy, but returned years later to win an Oscar



British actor Hugh Grant is shown in a Los Angeles Police department booking photograph following his arrest

for *My Fair Lady*.

In 1958, Cheryl Crane stabbed to death mobster Johnny Stompanato in the bedroom of her mother, Lana Turner.

Turner, who had been trying to end a romance with Stompanato, continued as one of the highest-paid actresses in films.



Charlie Sheen

At 78, Ernest Borgnine still an actor in demand

By Lynn Elber
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A palm reader laid it all out for navy gunner's mate Ernest Borgnine 50 years ago: Nothing but good things. A great future. Lots of money.

Relaxing in his sunny, spacious hilltop home, his Marty best-actor Oscar standing guard on a bookshelf, Borgnine seems a testament to the sooth-sayer.

He is a robust, 78, still an actor in demand and preparing to start work on a new NBC comedy, *The Single Guy*. Tova, his wife of 22 years, is a cosmetics tycoon. "Believe me, quite a girl," Borgnine says.

And he has the freedom and energy to jump into his 40-foot (12-metre) bus, dubbed the Sunburn, and flit around the country from RV park to RV park, stopping happily to sign autographs and accept hellos from surprised truckers.

His indelible portrayal of the kind, lonely butcher in Marty and the likable navy captain in the TV series *McHale's Navy* overcame his early, villainous screen image.

That suits Borgnine, who revels in the real-life role of forthright, good-natured American.

His hero is Abraham Lincoln, whom Borgnine calls "the only good politician, because he was for the people." The burly actor is a proud member of the Masons Fraternal Order and unabashedly sentimental.

"My mother told me if you can make one person in the world happy every day, you've accomplished a great deal," Borgnine says. "I figure through my work, if I make one person smile, that's what it's all about."

TV, specifically, the 1962-66 comedy *McHale's Navy*, also brought the celebrity that Borgnine freely admits he relishes.

"I worked all my life to be recognized," he says. "This is what's so foolish about people in my profession. They make a little name for themselves and they hide behind dark glasses."

"So ridiculous. Show the people your face. That's what it's all about."

that's what you're selling."

Borgnine began selling himself as a performer after a 10-year stint in the navy, which included World War II duty protecting the east coast from enemy invasion (his ship encountered one submarine, he says, but it got away).

After an apprenticeship in the theatre in the late 1940s, a series of TV and movie parts followed. His breakthrough role came in the unexpected vehicle of Marty (1955).

The small, poignant story of a humble butcher's love for a homely woman almost didn't get made, Borgnine says. Its producers, including Burt Lancaster, had intended the project as a tax write-off.

Borgnine also made a determined effort to avoid Marty typecasting. His next feature film was the musical, *The Best Things in Life Are Free*. He says he decided to veer from movies to television and *McHale's Navy* because he wanted the exposure.

His latest return to television comes in a supporting role, as a lovable doorman who meddles in the life of *The Single Guy* star Jonathan Silverman. He was pressured into taking the job, Borgnine explains.

His agent, his wife and his secretary all chided him for being unemployed. "C'mon, you can't just tinker around with your bus all the time, going here and there," they told him.

The *Single Guy* caught his eye. Given the odds of success in television, Borgnine figured he'd probably just make the series' pilot and be done.

But then NBC picked up the show for the fall and gave it a choice Thursday night spot between the hit comedies *Friends* and *Seinfeld*.

"I'm stuck with it, but I'm going to enjoy it," Borgnine says.

"I'm not carrying the show," he adds. "But believe me, my little five minutes in there will be fun, and that's what I want."

"Listen, for 13 weeks, I'm sure I can do it. If it goes longer, fine. I'll be the oldest actor extant in television."

Huge salaries still demonstrate star power

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — What makes a movie star?

Billy Wilder once remarked that the camera had a "love affair" with stars like Greta Garbo, Marlene Dietrich and Marilyn Monroe, all of whom he worked with.

The great English actress Ellen Terry defined star quality as "that little something extra," though she couldn't explain what that little something extra was.

A star is someone who attracts your attention even when he or she isn't doing anything," suggests George Sidney, who directed dozens of stars during MGM's golden years.

"Spencer Tracy could be standing behind Clark Gable and just nodding, but you couldn't help but notice him."

"Stars have a kind of inner magic that makes you want to look at them. Michelle Pfeiffer is like that. So were Lana Turner, Ava Gardner, Rita Hayworth. You can't take your eyes off them."

Whatever creates stars, two things can be certain: 1. The movie business can't exist without them. 2. Stardom can be very, very lucrative.

To illustrate No. 2: Jim Carrey, a little-known comedian two years ago, recently signed a \$20 million contract for his fifth movie, *Sylvester Stallone*. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Willis and Tom Hanks also can earn that kind of money.

The star system did not emerge immediately with the birth of movies a century ago. In the beginning, the actors were anonymous, and they remained so in the first decade of the 1900s. But the sudden popularity of movies prompted the public to

write letters to actors who intrigued them — the first fan mail.

In lieu of nannies, the letters were addressed to "the girl with the curls," "the wif," "the man with sad eyes," "the handsome Indian," etc.

Along with inventing techniques that helped make motion pictures an art form, D.W. Griffith contributed to the emergence of stars. Starting at biograph in 1908, the director collected a stock company of young players such as Lillian and Dorothy Gish, Mary Pickford, Mae Marsh and Florence Lawrence. None received billing.

In 1910, the aggressive Carl Laemmle plucked Florence Lawrence from biograph and introduced her to the public with a publicity stunt. A St. Louis newspaper had reported that Miss Lawrence, known as "the biograph girl," had been killed in a streetcar accident.

Laemmle in a trade-paperad denounced the report as a tie. He announced that the actress would appear at the opening of her new film in St. Louis. The event caused a riot.

Thus, Laemmle introduced the first publicity stunt, the first personal appearance, and the star system.

The first superstar was Mary Pickford. The winsome little girl with the long curls started at biograph in 1909 for \$40 a week. Seven years later, Adolph Zukor gave her \$10,000 a week, plus a \$350,000 bonus and her own company. In 1917, she moved to first national at \$350,000 per picture, and she made seven films that year.

Charlie Chaplin became the other great star of silent films. Starting in 1913 with Mack Sennett, his little tramp captured audiences throughout the world. By 1918, he was being paid more than \$1 million for eight two-reel comedies.

The formation of United Artists in 1919 hit the industry with the same impact of 1995's *Dream Works* SKG. The biggest stars of silent films — Pickford, Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks — and the biggest director, D.W. Griffith, joined to produce and distribute their own films.

United Artists marked the zenith of star power in silent films. The 1920s brought the consolidation of control in the hands of a few big studios, which amassed theatre chains to

Immortal lines

Ever since the advent of sound movies on the cinema scene, stars have uttered lines of dialogue that have become part of American folklore.

The real credit, of course, is due to the partly anonymous screenwriters and novelists who wrote the lines. But the words are forever identified with the stars. A sampling:

— Greta Garbo: "I want to be alone" (*Grand Hotel*, 1932).

— Mae West: "Why don't you come up and see me sometime?" (*She Done Him Wrong*, 1933).

— Clark Gable: "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn" (*Gone With the Wind*, 1939).

— Ronald Reagan: "Where's the rest of me?" (*King's Row*, 1941).

— Humphrey Bogart: "We'll always have Paris" (*Casablanca*, 1942).

— Bette Davis: Fasten your seat belts. It's going to be a bumpy night" (*All About Eve*, 1950).

— Marlon Brando: "I coulda had class I coulda been a contender" (*On The Waterfront*, 1954).

— Ryan O'Neal: "Love means never having to say you're sorry" (*Love Story*, 1970).

— Al Pacino: "My father made him an offer he couldn't refuse" (*The Godfather*, 1972).

— Peter Finch: "I want you to get right up now and go to the window, open it and stick your head out and yell, 'I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore'" (*Network*, 1976).

— Alec Guinness: "May the force be with you" (*Star Wars*, 1977).

— Tom Hanks: "Life is like a box of chocolates" (*Forrest Gump*, 1994).

show their product. Stars remained important, but most of them were tied to studio contracts.

★ ★ ★

"You ain't heard nothin' yet."

Al Jolson's prophetic words in the 1927 *Jazz Singer* signalled the end of the silent era and the birth of a new generation of U.S. stars. Most of the silent actors were swept away by a new breed from Broadway and Vaudeville — fast-talking, vital, exuberant.

James Cagney, Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy, Jean Harlow, Edward G. Robinson, Bette Davis, Ginger Rogers and others captured the tempo of the 1930s. The major studios

boasted large rosters of stars and featured-players. Through most of the '30s and '40s, nearly every star was under contract to studios. Only a few, such as Cary Grant, Irene Dunne, Charles Boyer and Ronald Colman successfully freelanced.

The year 1948 marked the beginning of the end of the big-studio era. That was when television began to change the entertainment habits of Americans. It was also the year when the U.S. supreme court ruled that the major companies were guilty of monopolistic practices.

The majors were ordered to divest themselves of the theatre chains that guaranteed a market for their product.

Contract lists gradually were whittled down. Such longtime stars as Clark Gable, Joan Crawford, Tyrone Power, Robert Taylor and Bette Davis entered the free-lance market, and their careers eventually faded. They were replaced by a new generation of actors: Montgomery Clift, Marlon Brando, Marilyn Monroe, Paul Newman, Jane Fonda, Shirley MacLaine, etc.

As the number of stars dwindled, talent agencies ascended in power. MCA's Lew Wasserman negotiated a landmark deal for Jimmy Stewart: the star waived his big salary in exchange for 50 per cent of the profits from Universal Pictures. He earned millions. Cary Grant was able to make contracts that gave him ownership of his films.

Agency control continues in the 1990s. CAA, ICM and William Morris can make fabulous contracts for that select handful of stars who can "open" a movie — meaning they can ensure a big

first weekend gross.

"The 'star system' doesn't exist anymore," observes NBC's Jim Brown, who has covered Hollywood for decades. "By that I mean the way that studios would nurture actors, building their careers until they reach star status. Today's actors better be stars when they get there. Otherwise, they may never get another chance."

"There is no place for actors to fail in today's movie world. If they don't make it right away, they're in deep trouble."

Today's Hollywood producers are loath to take chances on newcomers, preferring to stick with stars who can "open." But those stars are aging.

Clint Eastwood is 65; Sean Connery, 64; Jack Nicholson, 58; Robert Redford, 57; Al Pacino, 55; Barbra Streisand, 53; Harrison Ford, 52; Robert De Niro, 51; Bette Midler, 49; Goldie Hawn, 48; Jane Fonda, 47; Arnold Schwarzenegger, 46; Meryl Streep, 46; Jessica Lange, 45; Kevin Costner and Bruce Willis, 40.

Most of the above remain in demand.

But few new stars have come along to join them. The past decade has produced Julia Roberts, Denzel Washington, Michelle Pfeiffer, Mel Gibson and Tom Cruise. Eddie Murphy and Glenn Close.

More recently, though, only a handful have emerged, such as Keanu Reeves, Sharon Stone, Liam Neeson and Brad Pitt.

Unless the American studios can find and develop new stars, they are condemned to paying ever-inflating salaries for the current ones.

A perfume by any other name

By Marie-Dominique Follain
Agence France Presse

PARIS — Floral notes or spicy tang, most top French perfumes these days are the work of white-coated laboratory technicians rather than a distillation by an in-house alchemist.

Angel from Thierry Mugler, the Tocade of Rochas and a Jean-Paul Gaultier for men soon to appear are all the concoctions of Quest International France, owned by the Anglo-Dutch conglomerate Unilever. Quest has eight perfum-

ers busy doing experiments at Neuilly on the western outskirts of Paris, with production carried out at Meru just north of the capital.

A bare handful of legendary houses, including Chanel, Guerlain and Jean Patou, still have their own personal "noses" to conceive new fragrances to order.

But the other big names in perfumery turn for their potions to Quest. Givaudan Roure, I.F.F. or Firmenich, leaders in their field, with the first three posting annual turnover of \$1 billion.

But a shroud of mystery has long cloaked their

activities. "There are taboos in our job," admits Barbara Le Portz, head of Quest's fine perfumes division. "When a brand name launches a new perfume, it is presumed it prepared the formula itself. Our clients do not wish us to come forward to get the credit."

The stakes are high and the competition is fierce. About 160 new fragrances appear in French perfumeries and department store outlets each year. To be profitable, a perfume needs to survive three years. Only two are going to last a decade or more. Several companies at a

time are asked to submit samples for a given project. At the end of a year, just two are left in the running, and the commissioning brand name leaves its final choice to the last moment. The latest perfume from Hermes went through more than 1,000 tests, and the Rochas Tocade required 500.

Ms. Le Portz said there was a certain financial logic to the current hectic pace of getting new perfumes onto the market, since only the houses which brought out novelties had succeeded in maintaining turnover and getting ahead. "But the

trade is spoiling its reputation in this race for turnover," she warned.

A perfume ought not to be just the sum of the concessions made to the latest fancies, Ms. Le Portz argued. Beyond that aspect, there was the history the perfume represented for the brand name. "Before being raw material, perfume is loaded with feelings," she said. "It is in fact an embodied sentiment."

Modern perfumery hails back to the early years of the 20th century when the three main families were defined. First was the Cyprus water version as in Guerlain's Mitsouko of

1916. Floral as in Chanel No. 5 followed in 1921, and the same year Guerlain established the orientated type with Shalimar.

Fifteen or 20 years ago, 250 ingredients were needed to make a perfume, nowadays some formulas contained only 30. Ms. Le Portz noted. She said the present fashion was for floral accents with freshness and softness.

"In a period of crisis, people go back to flowery harmonies, they are the most reassuring and are not laden with sexual connotations," Ms. Le Portz explained.

'Suicide genes' eradicate brain, colon cancer in lab animals

By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press

BAR HARBOR, Maine — Injections of viruses armed with "suicide genes" have eradicated brain tumors and colon cancer in lab animals, opening the way to an entirely new kind of cancer treatment, a researcher said.

Similar experiments have also corrected hemophilia in dogs, when the viruses were engineered to carry a gene to repair the blood-clotting defect, said Savio Woo, a

biologist with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

"The results were unbelievable," Dr. Woo said. "The tumor just went away. Every animal responded." He described the work at a meeting of geneticists at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor.

Dr. Woo said he is "tremendously optimistic" about the new science of gene therapy. But he tempered his optimism with a reminder that enormous scientific obstacles

remain to be overcome before the research leads to a safe, effective treatment.

"We need to be aware how technically challenging it is," he said. "There is also fundamental cell biology and immunology we need to learn."

In a new study, Dr. Woo clipped what he called a "suicide gene" from a herpes virus and injected it into tumors of mice with colon cancer. He also injected a virus carrying an immune-system stimulant to intensify the effect of the suicide gene.

The tumor cells absorbed the suicide gene, making the cells susceptible to a drug called Ganciclovir, which is used to treat herpes. When the mice were given Ganciclovir, Dr. Woo saw "dramatic" death and regression in the tumors, he said.

Edward Birkenmeier, who is doing similar research on inherited diseases in mice at the Jackson Laboratory, said the future for gene therapy remains unclear.

"I think it's going to work, but it's not going to be that straightforward."

Each disease is going to be different," he said. "Which diseases will be first, which will respond well, which may never respond well, isn't clear yet."

Dr. Birkenmeier said he believes cancer will be among the most difficult diseases to fight with gene therapy.

Human trials of gene therapy have begun in a handful of patients, but Dr. Woo said he is worried that those trials could lead the public to expect

too much. The trials are designed merely to test the safety of the new techniques, not to determine how effective they are, he said. Widespread use is likely to be years away.

In every case so far, the initial success in treatment of cancer or disease has proven to be incomplete or enormously complicated. With brain tumors, researchers have shown they can eradicate a single tumor, but they have no way to hunt down and

destroy cancer cells that may have spread.

Most of the research on gene therapy now revolves around the development of viral carriers that have been stripped of their harmful genes and packed with something intended to fight disease.

The two most promising carriers each have problems, however. One of them, made from a kind of virus called a retrovirus, isn't very efficient at delivering genes to the body.

The other, made from

an adenovirus, is extremely efficient, but the suicide or corrective genes are gradually removed from the body, because the virus triggers the immune system to clear out the invaders.

In the case of hemophilia dogs, the delivery of a corrective clotting gene with a retrovirus produced only partial correction. An adenovirus produced complete correction, but it was only temporary, Dr. Woo said.

S. African heart transplant pioneers think again

By Anton Ferreira
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — Heart transplants, once the pride of South African medicine, are now under fire as expensive luxuries in a debate over where the country's health priorities should lie.

Nearly 30 years after Chris Barnard performed the world's first transplant at Cape Town's Groote Schuur Hospital in 1967, another South African surgeon was threatened in July with dismissal for performing the operation.

Dr. Fanus Serfontein, working at a state hospital in Pretoria, broke a moratorium on organ transplants imposed in January by the health authorities of Gauteng region around Pretoria and Johannesburg.

The authorities barred the operations as part of a policy to divert funds from expensive procedures and towards basic health care which would theoretically benefit a wider range of people.

The black-led government elected in April last year in South Africa's first

all-race elections is seeking to shift the health spending priorities it inherited from previous white-minority governments.

"The new government has brought in a 180-degree change in health care, giving access to people who never had it before," said Wim Booysse, a health care researcher with a leading pharmaceutical group.

He said that in 1992/93 the then white government spent 77 per cent of its health budget on hospitals, leaving very little for primary health care for the black rural poor.

"According to one study, the average frequency of visits by whites to hospital was eight times a year, while for blacks it was 0.8 times," Mr. Booysse said.

"The fundamental issue in the current debate is curative versus preventive care, and it is not simple. The important thing is to improve the nation's health as a whole."

Gauteng Deputy Director General of Health Eric Buch has accused Dr. Serfontein of trying to embar-

ass health authorities by performing transplants despite the embargo.

"His actions were narrow-minded and selfish," Mr. Buch said, adding that two heart transplants cost the equivalent of one year's running costs for a health centre serving 10,000 people.

Mr. Buch said there was a shortage of at least 200 clinics in Gauteng where the biggest killers of children are diarrhoea and pneumonia.

Gauteng Health Department head Ralph Mjima said Dr. Serfontein appeared not to care that the province was short of money for health services for the poor.

"It certainly appears that his intentions are to create a de facto situation to force our hand to keep these procedures... and to continue with the historical underdevelopment of other institutions."

But Dr. Serfontein said transplants were as important as primary health care programmes such as mass immunisation of children.

"Primary health care is a very important part of

our work, just as important as tertiary care. The one is not more important than the other," he said.

"You see I am a doctor, I look patients in the eye and I must decide whether to operate or not," Dr. Serfontein said.

"If the parents are sitting there with their child, and they ask you to operate, and you have a donor, and you have the facilities, you have a record of good results, I don't think we actually can say no."

The Afrikaans newspaper Beeld said in an editorial the question was whether advanced treatment procedures existed in isolation.

"Medical science could probably show that techniques and medicines developed for these procedures eventually have much broader benefit," it said.

"South Africa has a moral responsibility to provide improved medical services to millions of underprivileged people... But it must also maintain and encourage expertise, or the best doctors will take their talents elsewhere."

Experts warn of threat to humans posed by reinvigorated diseases

By Paul Recer

WASHINGTON — The

Spanish flu epidemic of 1918 ambushed the human race and left millions dead before it vanished. Scientists still don't know where it went, and say another outbreak could occur.

HIV appeared in the early 1980s, and the lethal disease may infect 40 million by the year 2000. Researchers haven't found a cure, or even a dependable treatment.

The Ebola virus appeared in Zaire and killed scores before quarantine and other measures brought it under control. Scientists are searching now for the origin of the killer disease.

Also in recent years, there have been outbreaks of dengue, yellow fever and cholera in the Caribbean and South America; hantavirus and Lyme disease in the United States; rift valley fever in Africa; diphtheria in Europe; and borbillivirus in Australia.

Disease is on the march, and the human race is not ready now to defend itself

against what is really an unending siege by pestilence, say the experts.

A new report compiled by experts from 17 U.S. government agencies called for intensified international surveillance of disease outbreaks, the organization of a quick-strike system that would respond rapidly to outbreaks and assisting other countries to create a system to detect and treat infectious diseases.

Such action, said the report, is a matter of U.S. security and international stability.

"Microbes don't respect international boundaries," Dr. James Hughes of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said Tuesday, at briefing on the report. "We really have a global crisis."

Dr. Hughes said that while new diseases, such as HIV, are emerging, old diseases such as tuberculosis, plague and cholera are returning to kill again. Many of the older diseases have become troublesome again because they have

developed resistance to antibiotics or because of failed public health measures, such as poor sanitation in overcrowded cities.

Joshua Lederberg, a Nobel laureate from Rockefeller University, said that many experts were absolutely confident in the 1960s that medical science had solved forever the problem of infectious diseases.

HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, has proven how wrong that view is, he said.

"Nobody would have predicted 10 years ago that we would be stuck today, still looking for an effective treatment for HIV, he said. "It is a very clever virus, indeed."

Dr. Lederberg said the Spanish flu epidemic killed about 20 million people, more than twice the number who died in World War I. And it could happen again.

"There is a real question if our system could now keep pace if such a disease were to reappear," he said. "We'll be fortunate if we get

through the next 30 years without another pandemic."

Efforts to monitor outbreaks and to detect new diseases early are now inadequate because of cuts in the federal budget for general diseases, said Dr. Lederberg. He said maintaining the nation's and world's surveillance of disease threats is important to the security of the United States and of people everywhere.

Dr. Michael Osterholm of the Minnesota Department of Health said that support in the federal and state health departments for monitoring disease outbreaks "is actually declining just at the time we have emerging diseases."

The U.S. Congress allocates millions for disease surveillance, he said, but except for 15 per cent, it is all directed toward AIDS, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases. As a result, he said, a major outbreak of some other type disease, such as hanta or Ebola, could go undetected until it became a major epidemic.

Scientists show that hormone controls weight of obese mice

By Paul Recer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Daily injections of a special hormone turned fat mice into lean and healthy rodents, suggesting to researchers that obese humans may one day control their weight with simple shots or pills.

Dr. Jeffrey Friedman of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Rockefeller University said the research in three labs proves that a hormone he calls "Leptin" forces the body to burn excess fat, while having no apparent effect on lean tissue.

"The protein resulted in almost a complete disappearance of body fat in these mice," Dr. Friedman said Wednesday. He said it is still not known, however, if the hormone is safe for long-term use and he emphasized that "exercise and dieting is still the only recommended way of weight control."

"There appeared to be no side effects to the hormone," said Dr. Friedman, "but my instinct is to be cautious. We now have to prove that the hormone is safe."

Other genes related to weight control must be studied and considered before new therapy is possible, he said.

Three reports on Leptin hormone studies were published in Science, journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Obesity is a major health problem in the United States. It is related to heart disease, cancer and diabetes, and Americans spend an estimated \$30 billion a year to control body weight. Most techniques fail, experts say.

The hormone Leptin, a name derived from the

Greek word for "thin," is a protein that is normally produced by a gene called OB. This gene, first cloned last year by Dr. Friedman's lab, plays a key role in the body's control of its own weight. Researchers found that a mouse with a flawed OB gene becomes grossly obese and eventually develops diabetes and other fatal conditions. Such mice also lack the hormone Leptin.

Scientists found that OB mice injected with shots of Leptin quickly began losing fat cells, ate less food, spent more time exercising and generally became healthier.

"It was very, very rapid," said Dr. Friedman. Within two weeks, he said, most of the extremely fat mice reduced their body weight by about 30 per cent. And even normal mice experienced a steep loss of body fat, he said.

What is not known, he said, is if the long-term use of the hormone could be harmful. This will have to be tested in mice and other laboratory animals, said Dr. Friedman, before any human research could be conducted.

But that may not take long.

Dr. Frank Collins, a researcher at Amgen, Inc., a California drug company that holds a licence from Rockefeller University for use of the OB-OB gene and its Leptin hormone, said human trials of weight control compounds could begin in about a year if all of the preliminary lab studies go well.

In the Rockefeller study, researchers gave daily shots of Leptin to OB-defective mice, to normal mice and to mice with a gene defect that makes them diabetic.

For normal mice injected with the hormone, the weight loss was about 12 per cent and body fat levels fell to less than one per cent.

The diabetic mice, however, were not affected by the hormone shots. Dr. Friedman said this suggests that these mice lack a key cell recep-

tor for the hormone, meaning their bodies do not benefit from Leptin.

Dr. Collins said his lab is planning to test the protein on monkeys whose conditions mimic human obesity.

"If laboratory work goes well, we could be in the (experimental) clinic next year," he said.

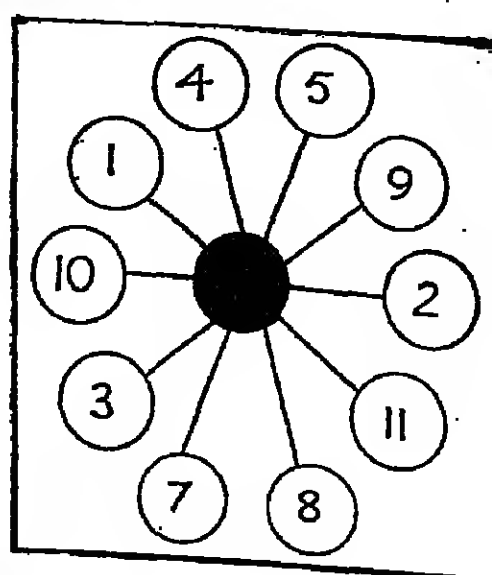
ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. A strap passing under a horse's tail and fastened to the harness or saddle to prevent it from slipping forward.
2. A boxer whose stance advances the right foot and the right arm... which is opposite to that normally adopted.
3. Fall-mall (pell-mell) was a game in which a ball was driven through an iron ring suspended in a long alley.
4. A barbed hook mounted on a handle, used for landing fish. In fresh water, mainly for salmon and pike. At sea, used for fish too heavy for the landing net.

PUZZLES

Arrange the Numbers



WEEKEND CROSSWORD

OVER AND OUT

By Penni Sletten

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Diagramless, 10 x 10

By Harold B. Counts

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Americans ask what was the price of victory

By Arthur Spiegelman
Reuter

NEW YORK — What price victory?

Fifty years after it dropped atomic bombs on Japan to end history's bloodiest war, the United States is marking the anniversary of one of its most important victories with a public soul-searching.

It is a debate born of being the only nation to inflict the atom bomb's blinding light, black rain, mushroom-shaped cloud and murderous radiation on civilian targets.

Did the war have to be won that way? And what price did the United States and the rest of the world pay for nuclear victory?

Did it make the United

States the world's most powerful nation and effectively prevent another world war, as many have argued, or did it — as many others have also argued — usher in a half-century of fear, a maniacal arms race and a tradition of government by secrecy?

With an intensity not seen in years, many Americans are challenging President Harry Truman's "the buck stops here" decision to use the bomb, arguing that 50 years of denial and cover-up about Hiroshima must end.

And many others are fighting back.

Mr. Truman always maintained that the decision was his and his alone and that it was done for one reason only — to spare the hundreds of thousands of

American lives that would be lost in an invasion of the Japanese mainland where battles would be fought to the death in every street and dark alley.

But a series of television documentaries, magazine articles, public debates and new books — like "Hiroshima in America" by Robert Jay Lifton and Greg Mitchell and "The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb" by Gar Alperovitz — are challenging each one of those assertions and are asking what use of that deadly weapon did to American society.

They say Japan was about to surrender, that the Russian entry into the war had, more than any bomb, spelled the end. They also say the bomb was dropped to impress the Russians and

to justify the secret spending of \$2 billion on making it.

"The bomb was dropped because it was in the bureaucratic pipeline to drop it. We had the bomb so we used it. No one expected it to win the war," says historian Gabriel Kolko, author of "A Century of War."

For every attack there is a counter-attack. The U.S. Post Office is forced to withdraw a stamp with a mushroom-shaped cloud on it out of deference for vanquished Japan.

The Smithsonian Museum in Washington is forced to censor an exhibit on the Enola Gaea, the plane that carried the bomb, out of deference for tens of thousands of outraged veterans who don't

want photographs of the victims at Hiroshima and Nagasaki exhibited. After the outcry, the exhibit is just of pictures of the plane. No victims.

But while the victors agonise 50 years later for their atomic deed, the vanquished are criticised for refusing to apologise for its acts in the war. Japan issues regrets but no apology.

The victory left the United States a political, military and economic superpower so strong that it became the world's dominant power and could wage and win almost five decades of cold war with the Soviet Union.

"Socially, politically, economically, militarily, culturally, racially, sexually, demographically, even

mythologically, World War II was the crucible that forged modern America," veteran Washington Post journalist Haynes Johnson wrote recently, adding:

"It was the transforming event that reshaped all who lived through it. Only the American revolution that created the new nation and the civil war that preserved the union rank with it in importance."

Out of the war came the nation's leaders for the next 50 years, out of it came a belief that appeasing an enemy doesn't work and out of that came other wars — Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf.

But says Pulitzer prize-winning historian Richard Rhodes, author of the just published "Dark Sun," a history of the making of the hydrogen bomb, out of

World War II also came a false sense of security.

"The immediate effect of the atomic bombing was that we threw down our tools and let our army go home. The \$90 billion defence budget in 1945 fell to under \$15 billion. We decided to rely on our nuclear arsenal rather than have millions of people under arms," he said.

But, he added, the Russians stayed with millions of troops on the ground and in 1949 they got the bomb and frightened us. Hysteria demanded that we then go out and build a bigger and better and longer bomb, which we did and then they did.

The nuclear deterrent became a weapon many countries — big and small — hunger for and not

necessarily as a deterrent.

"Science taught the world a new fact about how the world works: You can kill your enemy and he can kill you. In the Cuban missile crisis we came within hours of starting a nuclear winter. We had 7,000 megatons of nuclear weapons in the air and the Russians had 23 megatons of the same weapon stationed in Cuba," says Mr. Rhodes.

Greg Mitchell, co-author of "Hiroshima in America," says the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki set a precedent for using the bomb, set the stage for the arms race and gave birth to an era in which people can numb themselves to any atrocity.

It was a very expensive victory, he added.

Syria accuses Israel of playing games in peace talks

TRIPOLI (AP) — A top Syrian official Wednesday accused Israel of playing games in U.S.-sponsored peace negotiations between the two Middle East foes.

Syrian Defence Minister Lt. Gen. Mustafa Tlass also charged that the Israelis were not serious about reaching peace with Syria.

He spoke to reporters in the town of Zgharta just east of the northern port city of Tripoli.

Mr. Tlass, who doubles as deputy prime minister, was inspecting Syrian troops based in northern Lebanon on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Syrian army.

He was accompanied by senior Syrian army officers.

Asked about the fate of the stalled Syrian-Israeli peace talks, Mr. Tlass said: "So far, the negotiations have not produced anything because the Israelis want negotiations for the sake of negotiations, while we want them to achieve a specific goal, that is peace."

Syrian-Israeli talks reached a crisis point in mid-July after Damascus reportedly refused to send its chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Hikmat Shehadi, back to negotiations in Washington with his Israeli counterpart, Lt. Gen. Amnon Shabak.

Syria accused Israel of refusing to deal with real issues and of trying to gain security privileges that would infringe Syria's sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

Damascus has also declared it will not accept Israeli early warning ground stations on the strategic Golan as part of a peace settlement. It insisted on balanced and symmetrical security arrangements on the border with Israel.

Mr. Tlass said Syria will not accept under any circumstances Israeli early warning stations on the

Golan, maintaining that would amount to "spying."

"Even if one Israeli soldier stays on the Golan, we consider it as an infringement on our sovereignty," Mr. Tlass added.

He said Syria offered to accept monitoring of the borders through satellites and planes, but Israel insisted on ground warning stations.

The minister warned the Israelis that Syria will not bow to their "game play."

"It's a finger-biting game and President Hafez Assad, who enjoys cool nerves unequalled by any Arab or international leader, is a master in this field," Mr. Tlass said.

King visits Qatar

(Continued from page 1)

when we talk about Arab solidarity or work for having the minimum level of solidarity. Mr. Kabariti described the outcome of his visit to Saudi Arabia as good and expressed hope that the King would pay similar visits to other Arab countries.

He said: "We can describe our relations with Arab Gulf countries as good. But we want them to be distinguished and special. Our relations with Saudi Arabia are now taking a form different from that of the past five years and we hope that we will soon be able to develop these relations."

"Regarding Kuwait," he

said, "there are efforts, serious efforts, and continuous contacts between me and the Kuwaiti foreign minister. It might take some time, but we in Jordan keen to have relations between Arab countries distinguished and brotherly."

The minister said the Middle East and North Africa Summit, which will be hosted by Jordan in October, will provide businessmen and investors from various parts of the world along with counterparts from North Africa and the Mediterranean with a forum where they can conclude deals and study projects that might be launched to contribute to raising the living standards and growth rate," he said.

"Without any economic development that can be felt by the peoples of this region, security and stability will be rendered meaningless," he added, expressing hope that the summit will be the start of real cooperation among all the countries of the world and those of the Middle East.

He said there will be Jordanian working papers and project proposals which will be presented at the summit noting that the summit is not Jordanian but an international one hosted by Jordan.

The King was accompanied by Sheikh Hamad to the Guest Palace in Doha where he will stay during his visit.

Later in the day, the Qatari Emir hosted a dinner in honor of His Majesty and the accompanying delegation.

The King is accompanied on the visit by their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Prince Hamzah, Prince Hashem and Prince Talal, who is the King's military secretary. The King is also accompanied by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and the King's advisor Hameid Al Fayez.

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Japan new currency steps yield sudden dollar rise

TOKYO (R) — Japan launched a new drive Wednesday to tackle the yen's rise by promoting the flow of Japanese capital abroad — and was quickly rewarded with a huge surge in the value of the dollar to a nearly five-month high.

The surprise announcement of steps removing barriers to public and private Japanese institutions' overseas investment and loans, combined with Bank of Japan intervention, boosted the dollar to 90,000 yen, its highest level since March 17.

Currency traders said they expected the dollar to go even higher in the short term, but some economists were cautious.

The measures included scrapping limits on insurers' participation in syndicated loans and on their foreign currency loans to overseas borrowers.

Also announced were steps to promote the flow of government funds abroad through such means as actively disbursing loans to help developing nations reform export-driven economies.

A senior finance ministry official said the moves would facilitate the outward flow of Japanese capital — a decline in which was a key factor behind the yen's surge in recent months.

"If we can have a fair amount of export of capital, the exchange rate would change," Eisuke Sakakibara,

director-general of the ministry's International Finance Bureau, told reporters.

The yen's rise has threatened to tip Japan's stalled economy into recession. Tokyo's latest attempt to reverse it comes after an aggressive push last month failed to boost the dollar to its near-term target of 90 yen.

The fresh measures came "just at the time when we don't have any economic stimulus on the monetary or fiscal side coming through, and secondly when... the very bullish dollar sentiment we saw a few weeks ago kind of waning," said Mineko Sasaki-Smith, senior economist at Morgan Stanley.

"So this is a desperate attempt," she said.

Currency dealers said the steps would help boost the supply of yen and ease the chronic dollar surplus which has been a key reason for the dollar's weakness and the yen's strength.

Giant life insurer Nippon Life Insurance Co. welcomed the steps, saying they would help reverse the yen's rise.

Some economists, however, were cautious about the long-term impact and said it would take time to see whether Japanese institutions, many badly burnt by the bursting of Japan's 1980s asset bubble and by the yen's rise, were really prepared to substantially boost overseas investment.

If not, the persistently high

level of Japan's current account surplus, combined with low levels of outward capital flows might spell continued yen strength, they said.

"We got into the situation in the first place because Japanese investors were reluctant to purchase overseas assets," said Chris Calderwood, economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedo.

Deputies also warned in a letter to President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of the "lack" of investment security in Iran, saying the situation could hamper efforts to achieve economic prosperity.

More than 140 of the assembly's 270 deputies criticised the central bank for changing "regulations for imports and exports every day," notably the procedures for opening letters of credit for imports.

The government imposed tough measures in May requiring all foreign transactions to go through the state banking system at a fixed exchange rate of 300 rials to the dollar.

Two weeks earlier the greenback had been trading at more than double that figure.

The regulations, which also require traders to repatriate all their foreign earnings, are aimed at preventing the outflow of much needed hard currency amid a financial crisis in Iran.

Imports and exports have since virtually ground to a halt as merchants find it difficult to obtain foreign currencies or are unwilling to risk investment under the new regulations.

The situation has led to a sharp drop in non-oil exports, which Iran has promoted in recent years, as well as the import of raw material and spare parts, on which industry is heavily dependent.

The parliament decided last month to investigate the activities of the central bank over the past five years.

Iranian parliament warns of falling production

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament has voiced concern at the country's low level of production and urged the central bank to ease restrictions on industry.

Deputies also warned in a letter to President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of the "lack" of investment security in Iran, saying the situation could hamper efforts to achieve economic prosperity.

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U.S. study says aerospace jobs could be lost overseas

WASHINGTON (R) — Some 500,000 U.S. aircraft manufacturing jobs could be lost in the next two decades because of foreign competition and "offsets" made to win access to overseas markets, a study issued Wednesday said.

The study by the Economic Policy Institute, a research centre, also showed that U.S. plane-makers could lose \$129 billion in sales to foreign firms by 2013.

It said that while the U.S. aerospace industry had suffered in the past several years because of cuts in military spending and an airline in-

dustry recession, the future problems came from overseas.

The study said some 500,000 jobs could be lost by 2013 because of foreign competition and offset policies in which U.S. firms agree to build parts of their planes overseas in return for financing help and future sales.

It recommended the United States negotiate a new civil aviation policy with the European Union to prohibit the big U.S. plane-makers, Boeing Co. and McDonnell Douglas Co., and the European Airbus Industrie, from using the export of jobs and

technology as marketing tools.

It said that while Boeing spent \$6 billion developing its new B-777, it had to share development and production with foreign partners because of U.S. antitrust restrictions and the reluctance of the U.S. government to ensure risk-taking in commercial development.

It said the government should help preserve the aerospace industry's long-term viability by coordinating federal policies in financing, export and trade and negotiate an international aviation fair trade agreement.

Turkey abolishes customs duty on wheat

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has abolished a customs duty of \$20 per tonne on imported wheat with immediate effect to let private companies buy cheaper wheat from abroad, the official Gazette said Wednesday.

It said the government decree would be valid for all kinds of wheat.

"The abolition of the duty will bring an offset to domestic demand-and-supply," Agriculture Minister Refik Zaim Sahin told reporters. It will also prevent an upsurge in wheat prices in Turkey, he added.

"The decree will allow for more imports by private companies to meet domestic demand from millers and pasta producers for high quality wheat," a senior agricultural ministry official, who declined to be identified, told Reuters.

The TMO will import wheat, possibly for August delivery, under the U.S. export enhancement programme (EEP), he said.

FAO: Some 23m Africans face food shortages

NAIROBI (R) — Drought, civil strife and insecurity are wreaking havoc on farming in sub-Saharan Africa where some 23 million people face food shortages, a U.N. report has said.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in a quarterly report said the shortages meant more food aid was needed but the global availability of food aid would decline 20 per cent from last year, it added.

"Widespread drought has seriously undermined production in southern Africa, while persistent civil strife and security problems in some countries continue to limit farming and distribution activities," said FAO head Jacques Diouf.

"Sub-Saharan Africa's food aid requirements (will) increase significantly in 1995/96, at a time when global aid is forecast to fall by more than 20 per cent from last

year," he added.

The largest concentration of vulnerable population is in southern Africa where some 10 million will be affected, as well as nine million in eastern Africa, up to three million in west Africa and another million in central Africa, the report said.

Cereal output in 11 southern African nations is a third down from last year's harvest and 20 per cent below normal, it added.

"Widespread drought in Angola and Mozambique was compounded by massive displacement of farming families, landmines and shortages of seeds, fertilisers and tools," FAO said.

It said cereal output in the region, except for Malawi and Mozambique, was below normal this year while Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana and South Africa experienced sharp reductions.

OECD suggests need for early interest rate hike in U.K.

PARIS (AFP) — Short-term interest rates in Britain may have to be raised further in the coming year to achieve the government's current medium-term inflation objective, the OECD said Tuesday.

But the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said the British economy was "on track for a 'soft landing' beyond 1996" with continued moderate inflation and a sustainable current account position.

In its annual review of economic trends and prospects in Britain, the OECD said sustainable low-inflation growth was "within grasp" as a result of sweeping micro-economic reforms since the 1980s, a

new monetary policy framework, and a still large output gap.

Balanced output growth and low inflation suggested that the British economy "may have been made more flexible/competitive and less inflation-prone," it said.

The report said current macro-economic restraint should help showing GDP growth over the next two years to levels more in line with potential output, estimated by the OECD at around 2.5 per cent.

It said that with sterling's effective exchange rate down by 5.0 per cent since ending 1994, and recovery quickening in Europe, exports should support projected growth rates of 3.4 per cent in 1995

and 3.0 per cent in 1996, against last year's 3.8 per cent.

"With GDP growth still above potential, further increases in interest rates in 1995 may be needed to assure a soft landing," OECD economists observed.

But they projected short-term rates to peak at 7.75 per cent — one point up from the current base rate — which would be "well below" levels recorded in previous cycles.

The current recovery has been highlighted by an unusually rapid drop in unemployment, down from a 1992 rate of 10.2 per cent to 8.4 per cent this spring, and it is likely to fall further to 7.6 per cent in 1996, the report said.

THE Daily Crossword by Glenton Petgrave

ACROSS

- 1 Ethnic repression
- 7 Con man
- 14 Reach one's destination
- 15 Vacationing
- 16 Journey
- 17 Quarrelling
- 19 Call attention
- 20 Shoe gaiter
- 21 Earthenware material
- 22 Leftovers
- 23 Aromatic flavoring
- 24 Rope source
- 25 Cleaning compound
- 26 Neat pile
- 27 Sure!
- 28 Add water to milk, e.g.
- 30 Like some cloth
- 33 Float on water
- 34 Diving bird
- 35 Summits
- 38 Crude in manners
- 40 With it
- 41 Pie part
- 42 Clear a profit
- 45 Very eager
- 47 Seed's residence
- 48 Stick in one's
- 49 Adventure story
- 50 Young men
- 51 Stood up
- 52 Stretch out
- 54 Street melee
- 55 Audience demands
- 56 Group of seven
- 57 Most profound
- 58 Villainous expressions

DOWN

- 1 Walk a beat
- 2 Model of the solar system
- 3 Spiced
- 4 Splits
- 5 Done with
- 6 Singer Torne
- 7 Sojourner's inn
- 8 Clean out the suitcase
- 9 Blackboard
- 10 Land: abbr.
- 11 Coniferous tree
- 12 Witch's stare
- 13 Gave a new title to
- 18 Wandering one
- 20 Sudden rush of water
- 23 Wall posts
- 26 Long narrow cut
- 29 Tax collector: abbr.
- 30 Drink to the health of
- 31 Plant
- 32 Nav. off.
- 34 Former boxing champ
- 35 Drive away
- 36 Equaled
- 37 Inferior imitator
- 38 Of least sophistication
- 39 On the road
- 41 Boxes
- 43 Resurrection remembrance
- 44 Chirping sounds
- 46 Waltz, e.g.
- 47 Enrui
- 48 Crinkled fabric
- 51 Right on!
- 53 Republican letters
- 54 Feminine suffix

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

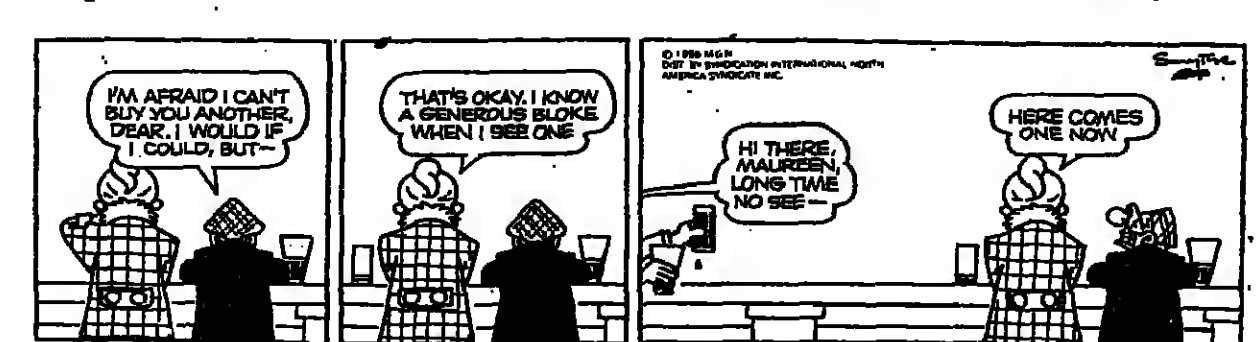


"My husband doesn't need vitamins to make him feel younger—he's already immature."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Find a better way of handling career duties and later today you can handle business matters very wisely.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You get some good ideas for becoming more successful today provided you steer clear of a newcomer.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Go to an expert for advice about business problems, and then you can handle them wisely for your progress.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You and a partner may be at odds this morning, but later today you can reach a fine accord with him or her.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Career activities may go slowly this morning, but don't get discouraged since later today all picks up and you can accomplish a great deal.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You find it difficult to reach one you like and make plans, but later today something comes up and you can have a fine time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You may not comprehend what is going on at home, but hide your time and then you can profit from the situation.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try not to fly off the handle with a bigwig today or you lose valuable support. Be very careful in the handling of mechanical gadgets.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You do not understand a monetary matter well this morning, so give it more thought before you handle it.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may feel very anxious without cause this morning, so go after your personal wishes with poise and gain them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't worry about a situation you can do little about today. Concentrate on more practical affairs.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Early today plan how to gain your personal wishes and then carry through in a most positive way and get right results.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get into practical affairs with higher-ups who are experts in fields you are most interested in. Get fine results during daytime.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) An emotional partner can give you fine ideas today for progress, so listen carefully, but don't approach a bigwig tonight for backing.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You understand how to gain better standing via the tasks you are currently engaged in for you to be successful.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can be with congenial friends for amusements today, but avoid bigwigs this evening. Plan new entertainment for later.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Keep rooted to interesting tasks during the day and accomplish a good deal, but don't go off on any tangent this evening.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get your finest talents working during the daytime, and tonight don't get into any business scheme which could be troublesome.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Every chance is yours to improve conditions at home today, so don't hesitate in doing so. Tonight avoid being pushed by a partner.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Contacting as many partners as you can today and getting their support for your ambitions is wise this morning.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Concentrate on how to have a greater income since your bank account is dwindling. Do not be extravagant.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are in a position to gain a long-time wish, so make the most of this. Be more economical this evening.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be more concerned with gaining personal wishes and make arrangements for such. Be positive and drive with care on the highway.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Forget usual activity and concentrate on something new which can gain you greater benefits later today.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR DAY, AUGUST 3, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Find a better handling career today you can business matters very.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You get some good today provided you clear of a new dawn.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 20) Go to an advice about an emblem, and then you let them wisely for you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) You partner may be at morning, but later you can reach a fine home him or her.

LEO: (July 22 to Aug. 22) Career activities slowly this morning don't get discouraged later today all pick you can accomplish a deal.

VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) You difficult to reach one and make plans, but today something one and you can have a.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You comprehend what is at home, but bid you and then you can win the situation.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try to off the handle with today or you lose support. Be very the handling of the gadgets.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Not understand a matter well this morning give it more thought you handle it.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are very anxious without this morning, so go to personal wishes and gain them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't get out a situation you a little about today, C trate on more in affairs.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Early how to gain your wishes and that through in a must way and get night in.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1995

By Thomas S. Fetter, Jr. and Robert S. Fetter

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get into practice higher-ups who are fields you are most interested in. Get fine results during the day.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) An emotional partner you fine ideas today, so listen carefully, and approach a big job with backing.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 20) You understand better standing up to the are currently engaged to be successful.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) You can be a good friend for someone day, but avoid being too close. Plan new entertainment later.

LEO: (July 22 to Aug. 22) Keep rooted to the ground during the day and avoid good deals, but don't get any tangent this evening.

VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) Get your first working during the day tonight don't get into a mess, scheme which is troublesome.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Even chance to improve conditions at the day, so don't hesitate tonight avoid being partner.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Consider many partners as you get their support and getting their support and getting their support.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Consider how to have a gain, so your bank account is winding. Do not let it be.

APRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are in a gain a long-time wish to gain a long-time wish to gain a long-time wish.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be more with gaining personal and make arrangements for a positive and fine with the highway.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Forget usual concentration on something which can gain you profits later today.

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Hinchcliffe 'persuading' London to write off Jordanian debt

★ THE BRITISH ambassador to Jordan said in a speech addressed to the Amman Rotary Club that he was personally endeavouring to convince the government to write off £300 million of Jordanian debt to British commercial companies and guaranteed by the British government. The ambassador, Peter Hinchcliffe, said he was finding difficulties regarding this issue, but hoped he could convince London to eventually cancel the debt, before the economic summit in October. Mr. Hinchcliffe pointed out that this region has become of interest to Britain again, after a shift to Arab Gulf countries in the past. He stressed Britain's keenness to ensure the success of the Amman economic summit and revealed that the minister of commerce would be heading a strong British delegation of those who seek to set up commercial projects in the region. They explained that the U.S. support to the idea of setting up a regional bank for the Middle East was based on pure political reasons and that the bank will not benefit developing countries like Jordan. The ambassador said the bank would not extend soft loans but rather commercial credits, and that the countries that would benefit from it would be the developed states, hinting at Israel (Al Dustour, Al Aswaq).

★ IF THE Kingdom is to keep pace with the developments in the communications sector, and should the sector be kept in the hands of the public sector, by the year 2000, the country's debt would increase by \$1.6 billion, the minister of communications has said. He explained that there were three alternatives to choose from. One would be to deprive the people and the national economy of modern telephone services. Another one could be having Israeli companies trying to sneak in the Jordanian market to fill the need for communication facilities. Noting that the first choice was impossible and not acceptable to the government and that the second choice was an unacceptable danger, the minister pointed out that the only solution was to allow the private sector to invest in the communications sector within the conditions and controls specified in the draft law presented for the approval of the Lower House (Al Ra'i).

★ THE ENGINEERS' Association has received requests from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Libya and Malaysia to employ 30 engineers in many fields, especially for the electrical, mechanical and irrigation specialties. The jobs will be announced by the association Saturday. The association has sent memoranda to Arab companies offering the services of qualified and experienced engineers. It has succeeded in the past year to employ 400 and in train 622 engineers at various public and private institutions and companies as well as military centres. During the first half of this year, the association has managed to employ and train 59 engineers (Al Dustour).

★ ACCORDING to the annual report of the Amman Chamber of Industry, the industrial sector achieved a "good" 7.7 per cent growth rate in 1994 compared to one per cent for the agricultural sector and 4.1 per cent for the construction sector. (Al Ra'i).

Air India eyes Gulf, Africa as competition in Asian skies heats up

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Air India, facing stiff competition in the Asian skies, plans to expand flights to the Gulf and Africa, airline officials have said.

Brijesh Kumar, the flagship carrier's managing director, said Air India planned to lease seven aircraft to step up service to Singapore and Hong Kong as well as expand operations to African destinations and the Gulf.

Air India, whose profits plunged last year when a plague scare drove away tourists, also plans to clinch a deal with the United States for the rights to pick up enroute passengers on air India flights to and from Chicago, he said.

Mr. Kumar told reporters in Bombay, where the airline is headquartered, that seven overseas bidders have responded to Air India's global tender for the leasing of seven planes.

A committee is evaluating the bids and in all probability more flights would be introduced to the Gulf, Singapore, Hong Kong and Africa in October, the Air India managing director said.

"The airline has stagnated with no increase in capacity or increase in flights, and hence the need to take aircraft on lease to bridge the gap," he added.

Air India presently has just two flights a week to Singapore and Hong Kong and is

facing demand from business travellers for higher frequency and first-class facilities.

On the flying rights accord with the United States, the airline chief said an Air India delegation would leave for Washington next month to try and clinch the agreement.

Air India wants to step up flights to Chicago with rights to pick up passengers in London or Amsterdam.

In return, Air India has offered United Airlines the right to operate flights to and from New Delhi, airline source said.

Air India is planning to almost double its present fleet of 26 long-haul aircraft, but is hoping for a disaster-free year following the plague epidemic last September, which resulted in 22,000 cancellations.

Net profits slipped to just \$3.3 million during the first nine months of fiscal 1994-95, which ended March 31, down from 70 million in 1993-94.

Mr. Kumar said Air India posted a profit of \$2 million in the first quarter of the current fiscal year compared with a loss of \$10 million during April-June last year.

It has also been facing stiff competition. British Airways, KLM, Lufthansa and four Middle Eastern carriers have all stepped up flights to Asia and increased service to Air India's passenger-revenue bastion in the Gulf.

Westinghouse to acquire CBS for \$5.4b

NEW YORK (AFP) — Westinghouse Electric agreed to acquire the CBS television network for \$5.4 billion, both companies announced Tuesday, just a day after the Walt Disney Co. said it was buying the rival ABC network.

"With the addition of CBS, Westinghouse is creating a premier broadcasting powerhouse," Michael Jordan, chairman of the U.S. conglomerate told a news conference. "Our television and radio stations will reach more homes than any other broadcaster."

CBS Chairman Laurence Tisch, who recently asserted his company was not for sale, said this deal would deliver "terrific value for CBS shareholders."

Westinghouse, better known for its nuclear power plants and refrigerated transportation, is offering \$81 a share for CBS. Additional payments could be made depending on the timing of the closing.

The agreement, to create a new group called Westinghouse-CBS, must still be approved by shareholders and regulatory federal authorities either later this year or in early 1996.

The deal, approved by the board of directors of both companies, would create a broadcasting company reaching directly one-third of all U.S. households and could boost Westinghouse's sagging fortunes by increasing its market-share in a booming market.

Rumours of a Westinghouse bid had been rife for two weeks, but on Monday it was ABC that made the headlines when Walt Disney stunned the markets by announcing it was buying the network in the second most expensive merger ever — \$19 billion.

Mr. Jordan confirmed that Westinghouse, which recently cut 7,000 jobs or 30 per cent of its payroll to reduce debt, has arranged a \$2 billion line of credit with two leading banks, Chemical Bank and J.P. Morgan.

In exchange, the group, which still has about \$3 billion worth of debts, has agreed to sell between one and 1.5 billion worth of assets.

The company, with \$8.85 billion in sales and a net profit of \$77 million for 1994, suffered as nuclear energy fell out of favour and as a result of cutbacks in U.S. defence spending which affected its electronics division.

"Our announcement today is, in many ways, a return to our roots, confirming that the future of Westinghouse will be built around our broadcasting and media business," Mr. Jordan said.

"It is the fastest growing, highest margin segment of our company, and offers our shareholders tremendous future value," he added.

Egyptian firms ask EU for \$20b to modernise

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian companies are seeking \$20 billion in aid from the European Union (EU) to help them modernise and penetrate markets in the 15-nation bloc under a new accord, the industry ministry has said.

Industry Minister Ibrahim Fawzi Abdul Wahed and the federation of Egyptian industries have put together the bid as part of negotiations to renew a 1977 partnership agreement between the EU and Cairo, the ministry said.

The new agreement, which aims to set up a free trade zone as part of the EU's wider plan to create a customs-free area throughout the Mediterranean, is expected to be concluded in 1996.

The EU, which has already given Egyptian goods free access to its markets under the existing agreement, is hoping that a new accord will open up similar opportunities for European firms in Egypt.

Since the agreement was signed, however, Egypt has recorded an annual trade deficit of between \$1.3 billion and \$2.0 billion with the EU. Cairo wants a 15-year transition period before bringing in free trade, while the EU wants to limit it to 12.

Mohammad Hassan Al Bahassni, the industry's spokesman, said: "Egyptian firms put the cost of modernisation at \$20 billion to bring them up to European industrial levels and enable them to penetrate European markets."

"Some Egyptian factories," he said, were not even capable of producing for the local market. "The companies are asking the Europeans to help them, just as they helped Turkey and Portugal," he said.

The group has a long history of involvement with the broadcast industry, going back to the early 1920s when it was a partner in the Radio Corporation of America — the predecessor of both the NBC and ABC networks.

Westinghouse has a television division of its own (Group W), but this consists mainly of local television outlets and represents one-tenth of the Westinghouse's annual turnover. With CBS this would increase to 30 per cent share and Mr. Jordan said his company intended to push further into the field, both at home and abroad, notably by buying into cable networks.

CBS earned \$280 million last year on revenues of \$3.7 billion, while the seven television stations it owns made \$217 million.

CBS has seen its fortunes tumble this year as its TV network dropped to third place in the primetime ratings and it lost several key station affiliates to the Fox network, set up in 1986 by media tycoon Rupert Murdoch.

Analysts suggested that news of the Disney deal had put pressure on CBS and Westinghouse to rapidly reach a deal.

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 02/08/1995									
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE					
ABAB BANK PJO	60	12850	214.000	214.250					
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1820	8225	4.500	4.520					
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2400	3024	1.250	1.260					
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	5775	14556	2.520	2.530					
JORDAN KIWAT BANK	478	1342	2.810	2.810					
JORDAN GULF BANK	8150	8912	1.090	1.090					
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	277	1042	3.800	3.800					
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	3771	14146	3.750	3.760					
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	1204	5057	4.190	4.200					
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	992	392	3.970	3.970					
DEIT ELMAL SAVING/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	200	737	3.680	3.680					
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	81307	86781	1.050	1.060					
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	405	2968	7.520	7.540					
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	2065	27759	1.640	1.620					
BANKS SECTOR	121157	185690	INDEX NUMBER: 177.70	CHANGE: +0.12%					
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	100	272	2.700	2.720					
AL-HYER AL-ARAB INSURANCE	4511	19172	4.370	4.250					
INSURANCE SECTOR	4612	19444	INDEX NUMBER: 135.60	CHANGE: +0.16%					
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	72196	125102	1.680	1.700					
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	450	1287	2.890	2.860					
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	2000	4208	2.210	2.240					
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE CENTER	150	180	1.180	1.180					
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSUMERS HOTELS	28500	62631	2.160	2.220					
ARAB INTV. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	3375	10871	3.240	3.220					
KARMA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	900	1254	1.390	1.400					
SERVICES SECTOR	108571	205223	INDEX NUMBER: 127.87	CHANGE: +0.12%					
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	200	5700	30.000	28.500					
ATZARKEP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	650	767	1.190	1.180					
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	8227	31599	3.800	3.810					
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	3900	10681	2.760	2.760					
THE JORDAN POTASH MINES	305	1528	5.010	5.240					
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	2998	31324	10.500	10.490					
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	165	549	3.330	3.320					
THE JORDAN WORTED MILLS	1000	7620	7.620	7.620					
ARAB MECHANICAL MANUFACTURING	10164	53840	5.310	5.240					
JORDAN DAIRY	450	1050	2.300	2.350					
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	506	3205	6.300	6.250					
THE PUBLIC MILKING	760	2303	3.030	3.070					
DAIRY INDUSTRIES	250	628	2.520	2.510					
DAR AL OMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	762	6038	7.950	7.930					
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1250	938	7.500	7.500					
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	6900	36651	5.310	5.240					
EXPORT & POLITY	12150	5868	4.770	4.680					
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	7750	11151	1.420	1.430					
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	200	538	2.630	2.690					
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	552	597	1.080	1.080					
INTERNATIONAL DESMO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	600	1353	2.250	2.260					
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	200	810	4.250	4.050					
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JINCO	2500	1620	6.480	6.480					
WATSON CHEMICAL & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1386	6681	4.900	4.900					
JORDAN GULPHO-CHEMICALS	750	1215	1.620	1.620					
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	500	1110	2.200	2.200					
KAWTHER INVESTMENT	650	1009	1.570	1.570					
INTERNATIONAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	10600	36119	3.400	3.400					
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	4650	9856	2.120	2.130					
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	3500	6090	1.740	1.740					
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	2610	221	0.850	0.850					

Janet Evans loses 800m freestyle crown

PASADENA (AP) — Janet Evans, invincible in the 800m freestyle since 1987, lost her crown to 15-year-old Brooke Bennett.

Bennett won her first national title at the Phillips 66 Championships in 8 minutes, 11.84 seconds — the fastest time in the world this year.

Evans finished fourth in 8:37.39, well off her world record of 8:16.22 set in 1989.

She held a narrow lead through the first 400 metres before Bennett took command by two body lengths. Moments later, Evans was passed by Trina Jackson (8:34.65) and Cristina Teuscher (8:34.65), who finished second and third, respectively.

Evans, 23, had not lost a major title in the 800m in eight years, piling up 22 consecutive victories and a record 12 national titles in the event.

"If I was a little younger, I'd be disappointed," she said. "I've been there, done that. I'm going to move on. I don't think age is a factor."

Her words belied the quavering in her voice and the tears in her eyes. Eventually, Evans regained control and laughed at the suggestion that he queen of long-distance swimming is dead.

"Please don't say that," he begged. "I'm not going to quit by any means."

"A little girl came up to me and said, 'you still have a huge fan club, don't worry.' That's what I appreciated. Four or five years ago, I would have been, 'this is it.' Her coach, Mark Schubert,



Janet Evans

suggested Evans was not in top form on the first day of the star-studded five-day meet, which determines the U.S. team for the Pan Pacific Championships 10 days from now in Atlanta.

"She went too fast in the first 200 and she knew she should have been," he said. "Janet's capable of going a lot faster and she will."

Bennett beat her idol for the second time this year. In May, Evans lost another of her dominant events, the 400 free, to Bennett.

Four months ago, Bennett caused a stir during the Pan American Games by suggesting Evans feared her.

"She knows there's somebody there behind her."

There's somebody coming up to take her place," Bennett said in Argentina.

Evans was miffed at the comments and openly wondered why Bennett didn't show some respect.

But she was gracious in defeat, flashing a smile at Bennett and telling her "good job" after the race.

"It meant a lot. I'm sure there are hard feelings in there," Bennett said. "I said 'good job' to her."

Peter Wright of Delran, New Jersey, won the men's 800 in 8:06.27. Brian Younger of St. Louis was second in 8:07.63 and Jon Sakovich of Gainesville, Florida, third in 8:09.62.

Australian Open victory still buoys Pierce

CARLSBAD, California (AP) — A second-round Wimbledon exit and a Fed Cup defeat may not seem the perfect preparation for an assault on the U.S. Open title. Mary Pierce's confidence remains undimmed.

Pierce, the world number three, said that even though she has not cashed in on the momentum from her Australian Open triumph in January by winning any more tournament titles, she is physically and mentally at home among the game's best players.

"It has been eight months that I've been ranked among the top players, and I think I've shown I can consistently play with them," she said.

At Wimbledon, she fell in the second round to French Fed Cup teammate Nathalie Tauziat, but she said the three-set effort, in her first appearance at the All England Club, was a pleasant surprise.

So was France's down-to-the-wire defeat by the United States in the semi-finals of the Fed Cup.

Playing the Americans in North Carolina, the French split the four singles matches to take the tie to the deciding doubles.

"That's totally the opposite to a blow in confidence," she says of the loss. "It's such a great experience. It's very rare that we can play as a team, play for each other. I felt we played really well."

The whole team was disappointed because we came so close, and when you come close it's even harder. But we all tried really hard, and



Mary Pierce

there was a great team spirit."

Now she is focused on the last Grand Slam of 1995, the U.S. Open and her appearance here at the \$430,000 WTA Tour event at the La Costa resort is part of the preparation.

"My goal is to peak at the U.S. Open," she said. "I'm training hard physically. I'm going to play here and at Toronto. They will be very important tournaments for me to prepare and be match tough."

Pierce admitted to something of a let-down after the Australian Open, where she beat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in straight sets in the final.

"After Australia, a lot of stuff happened really fast and I was trying to churn really hard and do a lot of things off court. I think that's why I got

sick," said Pierce, who battled a groin strain and kidney infection earlier this year.

Now, she says, she is well and injury free.

She was also clearly happy and relaxed as she prepared to play a tournament she last entered two years ago when her highly-publicised conflict with her father was at its peak and she sought a court order keeping him away from her matches.

"A lot has happened in the last two years in my life," said Pierce, 20. "I've been working with Nick (Bullitieri) and Sven (Groeneveld) and I feel there has been a tremendous improvement in my game."

"Also just in my life and being happy. I think in two years you grow up and learn more things about life and yourself."

Rangers ready to renew quest for European glory

GLASGOW (R) — Glasgow Rangers have long prided themselves on being one of the giants of European soccer.

Almost everything about the club entitles them to think so. Seven successive Scottish titles, their 51,000 capacity all-seater stadium, 18 international players from various countries on their playing staff.

The club has an annual income of more than £20 million (\$32 million), boasts fans in every corner of the globe, runs a TV station on match days and sells everything in their club shop from their Rangers brand of whisky, gin and vodka to Rangers tartan, aftershave and ladies underwear.

But there are no videos on sale of Rangers winning the European Champions' Cup, or any replicas of the European Champions' trophy on offer.

Gallingly, across the city these are available in the club shop of arch-rivals Celtic, who won the European Cup in 1967 when they beat Inter-

nationale 2-1 in Lisbon. It is an achievement Celtic fans have taunted their great rivals with for nearly 30 years.

The European Cup is the one major prize to have eluded the men in blue and until they have lifted that trophy, they will never exorcise the ghosts of Celtic's "Lisbon Lions." Nor will anyone outside the blue half of Glasgow put them on a par with the likes of Real Madrid, Barcelona and AC Milan.

Chairman David Murray, a multi-millionaire in the steel and metals industry who rebuilt his own life after losing both legs in a car crash in his twenties, has provided the funds for the re-building of Ibrox Stadium into one of the finest in Britain.

But he is well aware of the no-man's land Rangers currently inhabit. They are too big for Scotland, not eligible to take part in the Premier League in England and have still to prove themselves in Europe.

"We know that with the possible exception of Man-

chester United, we are the biggest club in Britain," Murray said. "We will soon have nearly 40,000 season ticket holders and the funds we generate are vast."

There are few clubs in the world as big as Rangers. Our aim is to prove that to everyone in the only way we can — by winning the European Cup."

Demand for tickets is so great that fans are now paying a one-off contribution of £399 (\$637) merely for the right to their purchase their season tickets for each of the next 25 years.

More than 12,000 fans have already pledged their cash and Murray says that if demand continues to grow, he will not hesitate to increase the stadium's capacity to 60,000.

The passion and loyalty of the Ibrox fans is legendary and for more than a century their "aud firm" rivalry with Celtic has fuelled their devotion and split the city in half.

The protestants with their Union Jack British flags support Rangers, the Catholics

with their Irish flags follow Celtic.

For the best part of those 100 years that rivalry was largely intercommunal, but all that changed in the late 1980s when former manager Graeme Souness started signing English and overseas players.

His successor Walter Smith has continued that policy, bringing in players of the calibre of Britain's Laudrup from Denmark, Basile Boli from France and Paul Gascoigne from England via Italy.

The biggest signing of course was Gascoigne, who cost £4.3 million (\$6.87 million) from Lazio and whose own peroxide blond, cropped hairstyle has spawned hundreds of imitators and given Glasgow's barbers a healthy boost to their earnings.

Because of the serious injuries he has suffered over the last four years, the signing of Gascoigne is a major gamble.

But Gascoigne, one of five close-season signings who

have cost the club £11.3 million (\$18.05 million), could be the key to unlocking the European treasures.

These are bonyant optimistic times at Ibrox, but the club has been in this position for the last two seasons.

Big summer signings have brought the promise of great achievement, only for Rangers to fail in their European quests.

Murray, a staunch advocate of a European League, knows that for the club to continue to grow at their present rate on and off the field, it is imperative they reach the lucrative Champions' League.

All they have to do to achieve that is to beat the Cypriot champions, part-timers Anorthosis Famagusta, in a preliminary round tie next month.

Last weekend saw Rangers lift their first trophy of the season when they beat Romanian champions Steaua Bucharest 4-0 and Italians Sampdoria 2-0 in the Ibrox international tournament.

Sanchez Vicario, Martinez survive tests

CARLSBAD (R) — Top-seeded Spaniards Arantxa Sanchez vicario and Conchita Martinez each dropped a set in winning second-round matches on Tuesday at the \$430,000 Toshiba Tennis Classic.

Sanchez Vicario, the top seed, survived against Canadian Patricia Hy-Boulais 6-2 2-6 6-2, and the second-seeded Martinez, the 1994 Wimbledon champion, struggled past Beate Reinastler of Austria 4-6 6-2 6-3 in a 2 hour, 5 minute baseline battle.

"When I won the first set I was feeling very good," said Sanchez Vicario, the world's second-ranked player. "But I started leaving the ball a little shorter and she started taking advantage of that, and started attacking."

Sanchez Vicario, however, regained control and raced to a 5-1 lead in the decisive set before serving out the 1 hour, 46 minute match against the world's 69th-ranked player.

"I started playing deep again and moving the ball much better, and taking control," said Sanchez Vicario, who has been runner-up to Steffi Graf here the last two years.

Third seed Mary Pierce of France captured the first nine games before powering past American Erika De Lone 6-0 6-3 in 62 minutes.

"I just felt great. Everything was working well," said Pierce, who yielded just eight points in the 18-minute first set. "I was expecting a little bit more of a battle."

Three seeds were surprised on the hard courts of the LA Costa Hotel and Spa.

Sixth seed Natasha Zvereva of Belarus was flat after a three-week layoff and fell to Sandrine Testud of France 6-3 6-4. Tenth seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa was bounced by Ai Sugiyama of Japan 7-5 6-0. American Sandra Cacic beat 14th seed Angelica Gavaldon of Mexico 6-3 6-3.

Zvereva, ranked 11th, shrugged off the

loss.

"I really don't expect anything," said Zvereva. "I just go out and play. If I win it's good. If I lose it's still OK."

Martinez had not played on hardcourts in five months and it showed. The Spaniard appeared frustrated throughout as her array of heavy topsin and sliced ground-strokes either exploded for winners or ended in sloppy mistakes.

Despite the spotty effort, the third-ranked Martinez was happy to get the second-round match out of the way in her first meeting with Reinastler, ranked 74th.

"It's nice when you finish the match and though you didn't play your best you won," said Martinez, who was one of 16 seeds to draw a first-round bye.

Martinez admitted the surface hampered her style.

"I was just not used to the court," she said. "I just changed from grass to clay to hard. It's very difficult, so you have to get used to it. It seemed to be really fast from where I've been coming from."

A slew of mistakes cost Martinez the first set, but she got her game untracked to level the match.

"I thought I couldn't play worse in the first set, so I tried to play more aggressive in the second set and mix up the pace."

In the deciding set, Martinez jumped to a 5-1 lead. Reinastler rallied to 5-3, but Martinez served out the match, watching Reinastler's backhand go long.

Reinastler was disappointed after piling up 19 break point chances but converting only four.

"It was unbelievable. I should never lose this," said Reinastler. "Maybe I wanted to do too much with these points because I knew how important they were."

Steffi Graf's father arrested

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The father of top-ranked women's tennis player Steffi Graf was arrested at his home Wednesday on suspicion of tax evasion, state prosecutors said.

The arrest warrant was issued earlier in the week, but was executed when authorities feared Peter Graf, who is also his daughter's manager, might flee Germany to avoid prosecution, Mannheim prosecutor's spokesman Peter Wechsung said.

He confirmed last month that both miss Graf and her 57-year-old father were targets of searches as part an investigation.

Wechsung said police went to the Graf family home in Bruehl south of Mannheim to carry out the arrest before noon.

The arrest warrant said Mr. Graf did not file a tax return for four years, and when he did, on estimated income of 35 million marks (\$25 million), he paid only one-fifth of that income in taxes.

Rosset wins, Medvedev loses to Kulti

PRAGUE (AP) — Top-seeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland defeated Czech Jaroslav Bulant 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 in Tuesday's first round at the \$365,000 Czech Open tennis tournament.

No. 2 seed Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine gave up, citing stomach problems after losing the first set against Sweden's Nicklas Kulti 5-7.

"Doctors say it is probably an infection from some food," Medvedev said after the match. "I was feeling worse and worse every minute."

In other first-round matches fourth-seeded Karol Kucera of Slovakia beat Russia's Andrei Cherkasov 6-3, 1-6, 6-1; sixth-seeded Slava Dosedel of the Czech Republic defeated France's Henri Laconte 6-1, 6-3; and No. 7 Javier Sanchez of Spain outplayed Roland Agnir of Haiti 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Also, Alberto Portas defeated fellow Spaniard Marcos Aurelio Gorri 6-2, 6-4; Karim Alami of Morocco beat Czech David Miketa 7-6 (7-2), 6-0; Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic beat Marco Meneschincheri of Italy 6-4, 6-1; Mariano Zabaleta of Argentina defeated Poland's Wojtek Kowalski 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (7-3), and Czech Jiri

Vane outplayed countryman Radomir Vasek 6-4, 4-6, 6-4. Uzbekistan's Oleg Ogorodov beat Franco Davin of Argentina 6-3, 3-6, 6-3. Ogorodov substituted for third-seeded Czech karel Novacek, who withdrew from the tournament Tuesday morning after suffering a back injury.

In Dearborn, Michigan, Jimmy Connors rallied to beat Bjorn Borg 0-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Mentadent Champions.

Connors downs Borg in finals

In Dearborn, Michigan, Jimmy Connors rallied to beat Bjorn Borg 0-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Mentadent Champions.

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United cancels match in Cantona controversy

LONDON (AP) — Manchester United cancelled a scheduled practice match against lower division club Preston following controversy over banned striker Eric Cantona's appearance in a similar match last week.

Cantona was due to play in the match behind closed doors at United's training ground on Monday, despite his nine-month ban from "all football activities" for attacking a crystal palace supporter in January.

Manager Alex Ferguson phoned Preston Monday morning to cancel for fear of

fueling further controversy. The match last week against Rochdale was also held behind closed doors with no crowd. However, a London tabloid newspaper published pictures of Cantona playing, and the Football Association took hundreds of calls from the public questioning the status of his suspension.

"The game was behind locked doors and was a private match, but when there were pictures in the paper, it became a public event," FA spokesman Mike Parry said. "We feel that Manchester

United probably have an explanation. The terms of the ban are quite clear and precise, we'd just like the matter clarified. We are not near the stage of imposing any penalties."

The FA has asked United to give it an explanation as to the conditions of the game, but Parry said that would probably not happen until next week as the team is currently on tour in Malaysia.

Under the terms of Cantona's suspension, he is allowed to train with the club, but cannot represent it in any competitive matches.

whether friendly, cup or league.

Players' union boss Gordon Taylor said the FA should not think of penalizing Cantona or United.

"We feel Eric has suffered very tough punishment already, and that any suspended player needs to keep fit," said Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association.

"We can understand his suspension applying to games where the public is admitted, but we feel that matches behind closed doors should be acceptable."

Effiong, Powell fail drugs tests

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (Agencies) — Nigeria's Daniel Effiong faces a four-year ban for steroids and Jamaica's Donovan Powell a three-month ban for stimulants after both sprinters failed drugs tests, the IAAF announced here Wednesday.

Effiong, 23, tested positive at the Nigerian championships in June for a steroid-stimulant combination, methyltestosterone and ephedrine. IAAF general secretary Isvan Gyulai told a news conference.

"Ephedrine is a stimulant, the other is a steroid, so it's four years," said Gyulai.

Effiong, like Powell, has been suspended pending a hearing.

In 1992, Effiong and four other Nigerian athletes failed dope tests on a samples provided shortly before the Barcelona Olympics.

The others were all suspended after their B sample confirmed the initial result, but Effiong was cleared after his second sample proved negative.

At the time, he was competing as Daniel Philip — the sprinters' full name being Daniel Effiong Philip.

One of Africa's top athletes, Effiong came seventh in the 100m at the 1993 world championships in Stuttgart, but has not been entered for the championships which open here on Friday.

A student at Azusa Pacific University in California, Effiong won the 100m at the World University Games in 1993 and was African champion in the same year. Last

year, he set a Nigerian record over 200m.

Powell, 24, tested positive for the stimulant ephedrine at the Jamaican championships on June 23.

Two weeks ago, he came second behind Britain's world and Olympic champion Linford Christie in the 100m at the Bislett Games in Oslo.

However, team spokesman Tony Ward said Wednesday the Olympic champion, who has missed the entire outdoor Grand Prix season through injuries, had still not fully recovered.

"It's a disappointment," Ward said. "She's had a bad year."

delegates, 135 had already written a letter of support for his candidacy.

Nebiolo, who took over from Dutchman Adrien Paulen in 1981, has transformed the sports ruling body, successfully attracting sponsors and lucrative television rights. The 1992-96 budget is 120 million dollars.

The world championships which officially open on Friday are the fifth to be held since 1983, and they now rank third, behind football's World Cup and the Olympic Games, for global TV audience.

The two-day Congress will also re-elect members to an expanded 27-strong IAAF Council, and discuss a variety of issues ranging from drugs, funding and administration.



Michael Stich

Stich already thinking of U.S. Open

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michael Stich beat Gianluca Pozzi in straight sets to reach the second-round of the Infniti Open here on Tuesday — but he admitted his mind was already on the U.S. Open.

Stich, the second seed behind Croatian Goran Ivanisevic, defeated Pozzi 6-4, 6-2.

Former world number-one Jim Courier, the third seed, beat Alejandro Hernandez of Mexico 6-3, 6-2 and fifth-seeded Swede Thomas Enqvist beat Mauricio Hadad of Colombia 6-1, 6-2.

"I think I played pretty well," Stich said. "I'm just trying to work real hard right now to have my game ready for the U.S. Open. My main goal is to be ready for the Open."

Richard Krajicek, the fourth seed from the Netherlands, withdrew before his first-round match on Tuesday with a recurrence of the right elbow injury that forced him to retire during the Canadian Open in Montreal last week.

He had been hoping to challenge for a third title

here, after back-to-back wins in 1992-93.

Lucky loser Ignacio Martinez of Mexico took his place and took a set off compatriot Luis Herrera before losing 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Australian Patrick Rafter, who moved back into the top 50 in the world rankings when he reached the semifinals in Washington two weeks ago, survived a second-set lapse to beat fellow Australian Paul Kilderry 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

Rafter, who lost to Stich in the second round in Montreal last week, failed to convert a match point when serving at 5-3 in the second, then lost four games in a row to let the match go to a third set.

"I had my chances to close it out in the second set and I didn't do it," he said. Rafter admitted it was hard to get back on track after a momentum swing of that magnitude.

"Mentally it's very difficult," he said, adding that he was trying to school himself to deal with that kind of setback.

"If you look at a guy like Pete Sampras, he plays a couple of

loose games, he gets it back. That's why he's one of the best players in the world. And that's why I'm not. One of the reasons why I'm not."

But Rafter said he was improving in that department.

"It was very important for me to remain composed out there," he said. "I knew I could pull it out."

Like Stich, Rafter said he was already looking ahead to the U.S. Open, which starts on August 28.

One man in the draw here who probably isn't already plotting his U.S. Open strategy is veteran Jimmy Connors.

Connors, officially retired and playing on a senior tour with other over-35s, accepted a wild-card entry and was to play Italian Cristiano Caratti on Tuesday night.

While Connors said he hoped to continue peppering his schedule with ATP Tour events, he said the best-of-five set format of the Grand Slam tournaments made the U.S. Open less attractive to him at the age of 41.

Schumacher weds despite newspaper clamour

KERPEN, Germany (R) — World champion Michael Schumacher married Corinna Betsch on Tuesday only hours after delaying the civil wedding in disgust when German papers splashed his secret nuptial plans across their front pages.

Schumacher emerged from the registry office in Mannheim and posed for photographers with his bride before heading off to celebrate.

Earlier, the Benetton driver had disappointed dozens of reporters and fans who had gathered outside the town hall in his neighbouring home town of Kerpen to catch a glimpse of the couple.

"It was the young couple's wish to get married under completely normal circumstances and without media uproar," Kerpen Mayor Peter Mueller said. "The city has to respect this."

Schumacher thrilled his compatriots by becoming the first home driver to win the German Grand Prix on Sunday.

A full church wedding was set for Saturday at the federal government's hilltop guest house overlooking the Rhine Valley near Bonn.

Cologne's Catholic Archbishop gave the couple special permission to wed at the chapel on the site, where dignitaries such as Bill Clinton, Mikhail Gorbachev and Queen Elizabeth have stayed while visiting Germany.

Fans will have trouble catching a glimpse of their idol there because the only road leading to the complex will be sealed off.

Trine Hattestad has pulled out of the world championships because of advanced pregnancy and will not defend her world javelin crown.

The Norwegian has hoped five months of pregnancy would not affect her performance, but she said she was unable to compete at her top form in such a condition.

"My belly is just too big now," she said.

After the birth of her second child, set for December, Hattestad will centre on next year's Olympics in Atlanta.

Germany's Uta Pippig, a leading marathon runner who was entered for the women 10,000 metres here, pulled out because of an injury.

Gunnell out too

Britain's Sally Gunnell has been forced out of the world championships altogether, after injuries dashed her last hopes of running the 4x400m relay.

Gunnell had already abandoned her defence of the 400m hurdles she won in Stuttgart two years ago, but was still hoping to make the relay squad on the flat.

IAAF ratifies 3 world records

The governing body of track and field Tuesday ratified two world records by Algeria's Noureddine Morceli and a third by fellow middle-distance runner Moses Kiptanui of Kenya.

Morceli now holds all of the world records between 1,500 and 3,000 metres.

Morceli's 1,500 time of 3 minutes 27.37 seconds was run July 12 in Nice, erasing his former world mark of 3:28.86. The 2,000-metre record of 4:47.88 came July 3 in Paris, surpassing the former standard of 4:50.81 held by Said Aouita of Morocco.

Kiptanui's record of 12:55.30 for 5,000 metres was run June 8 in Rome, surpassing the previous mark of 12:56.96 by Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia.

Christie grandfather at 35

Spring champion Linford Christie has become a high-speed grandfather, according to a report in the Sun newspaper here on Wednesday.

The paper said the Olympic gold medalist, who holds the world 100 metres title, became a grandfather at the age of 35 after his 16-year-old son became the father of a baby girl, Shakira River, three weeks ago.

School-leaver Merrick Osborne still lives in south London with his mother Judith Osborne, a teenage sweetheart of Christie's. The relationship broke up when Merrick was much younger.

Merrick has been going out with the baby's mother Georgina Mackenzie, 17, for two years, the paper said.

Foyt plans racing comeback to 60

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A.J. Foyt has the itch to race again at 60 years old.

The man who retired from driving with a tearful farewell and a slow lap around the oval at Indianapolis motor speedway in 1991 can't seem to get it out of his system.

"I'll tell you, I just want to start racing a little bit more, get back in shape, take off about 20 pounds (nine kilograms)," he said. "It's something I enjoy, and what's life all about if you can't have fun? This (retirement) deal hasn't been much fun for A.J. Foyt."

Foyt was the first of three drivers to win four Indianapolis 500s. His resume also includes 63 other Indy-car wins, seven Nascar triumphs, including the 1972 Daytona 500, and two wins in the Daytona 24-hour sports car race.

He came out of retirement a year ago to run in the inaugural brickyard 400 and was the slowest of the 40 qualifiers in the 43-car field

that included three provisional starters based on series points. His car ran out of gasoline early while running near the lead and Foyt wound up 30th, four laps behind but gunning at the end of the 400-mile race.

On Tuesday, Foyt confirmed he will try again in this Saturday's Winston Cup race at the speedway, and that may be only the beginning.

"I'm looking forward to this," Foyt said. "As this race got closer and closer, I got itchy and itchy. I just think when I stepped down out of Indy cars, I stepped down a little early, and I still want to race. If I didn't think I could do anything, I wouldn't be here."

So, the man who started a record 35 consecutive Indianapolis 500s and has always been a fan favourite at the speedway, will be in a Motorola-sponsored Ford Thunderbird when practice begins.

Foyt said he might run some more races this year

because the Indy-car season ends in September.

Foyt, now a full-time Indy-

car team owner, is also considering getting back into an open-wheel car to run in the new Indy racing league.

Fire engulfs thoroughbred barn

HENDERSON, Kentucky (AP) — Fire quickly engulfed a thoroughbred barn early Monday at Ellis Park, killing as many as 25 expensive race horses. One stable groom trying to free horses from the flames was slightly burned.

The cause of the fire was unknown. Arson investigators were at the site.

Tejano Run, who finished second at this year's Kentucky Derby and who was moved Friday to Ellis Park for turf training, was stabled in another barn at the track and was not among those killed.

The track, which houses about 1,000 thoroughbreds in more than 30 stables, cancelled racing for Tuesday. Ellis Park, whose meet ends

labour day, normally is closed Mondays.

When firefighters arrived just before dawn, the 30-stall barn north of the grandstands was burning so intensely that flames were visible (five kilometres) away, said Maury Nichols, a firefighter.

Thoroughbreds that had been released from the burning barn No. 10 and adjoining barns ran loose across the property. Two horses bolted were caught at a truckers' weigh station.

"They were running all over the park," said firefighter James Banks, the on-scene commander. "You get a scene like this, they just go crazy."

At least one horse that was led out of his burning stall ran

back inside out of fright and hunked to death, firefighters and a track spokesman said.

Stable groom John Wells saw the barn burning and ran inside to free the horses. He suffered second-degree burns to his shoulder, said Richard Schnaars, vice president and general manager for Ellis Park.

Wells was treated at a local hospital, then returned to the track.

Track officials still had not compiled a complete list of horses killed hours after the fire was extinguished. Schnaars put the number of dead at 22 to 25 horses, including two that were destroyed due to injuries.

Jordan Times
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WHERE'S THE FIRE?

Neither vulnerable. North dealt.

NORTH
♠ Q 4
♥ K Q J 4
♦ Q 10 9 2
♣ A Q 8

WEST
♠ K 2
♥ A 7 6 3
♦ A 7 6 3
♣ 8 8 5 4 2

EAST
♠ J 10 8 6 5
♥ 9 2
♦ A 6 3
♣ K 7

SOUTH
♠ A 7 3
♥ 10 8 5
♦ K J 6 5
♣ J 10 3

The bidding:
North East West
1 ♠ 1 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
North and South had an arrangement. If either player made a palpable error, the offender had to pay partner one dollar. You be the judge: Should South be penalized for the play of this hand?
North-South were playing five-card majors and weak no trumps, which accounts for the one diamond opening bid. East seized the opportunity to overcall one spade. South's one no trump cannot be faulted and North jumped to game, since the queen of spades was now known to have some value, even if only to bolster partner's support.
West led the king of spades, taken

downs Borg in finals

earborn. Michigan. Connors rallied to earn Borg the national of the Montadon.

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Australia to keep up protests against French nuclear tests despite Paris snub

CANBERRA (Agencies) — Australia on Wednesday vowed to continue protests against French nuclear testing in the South Pacific as the row with Paris escalated with the French envoy leaving the country and state governments attacking French investment.

"We'll keep it up. We don't like their capricious decision to continue to detonate nuclear weapons," Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating told reporters in the remote Queensland town of Roma.

Ambassador Dominique Girard returned to Paris in protest at Australia's decision to ban a French defence contractor bidding for a jet contract.

Mr. Girard said it was a shame that a previously good relationship had soured. "We consider that the way in which we have been treated was not in line with that policy (of good relations)," Mr. Girard told reporters.

However, Australia welcomed Mr. Girard's departure, saying Paris would now get a clear, unambiguous message on Australia's opposition to French President Jacques Chirac's decision to resume nuclear testing at French Polynesia.

"An important effect of it will be that the message gets through at the very highest level to the French president that this is a decision which is regarded with outrage in Australia," said Acting Foreign Minister Gordon Bliley.

Mr. Keating said Australia was undeterred by Mr. Girard's recall. "I'm concerned to see that the French understand the Australian protest, and they're starting to register that now, and the recall of the ambassador is recognition of that," he said.

Defence Minister Robert Ray, who confirmed on Tuesday that France's Dassault aviation had been excluded from bidding for the contract to buy 35-45 light jet fighters, on Wednesday called on state governments to look at boycotting French firms.

"The real pressure now is on some of the state governments who are doing a lot of business with French companies," Mr. Ray told reporters in Canberra.

The Australian State of Victoria on Wednesday said French companies were not welcome to bid for a slice of its electricity privatisation programme north up to \$213 billion (\$89.6 billion).

But the ban does not affect French government owned electricite De France (EDF), one of three bidders for the A21.2 billion (\$886 million) state-owned United Energy Distributor, a government spokesman told Reuters.

A spokesman for Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett said the move was in protest at French nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

"The premier made clear two weeks ago that the government would actively discourage other French companies from becoming involved in the electricity privatisation programme," the spokesman said.

Mr. Kennett has already told an unnamed French company which approached his government about bidding for a power company that it would not be welcome.

French Australian chamber of commerce on Wednesday said it worried about a possible pullout of French investment.

"If it's applied across the board, they (French businesses) would have to come to the conclusion as to whether they wanted to stay in Australia or not," said a chamber director, Bob Somerville.

French companies are currently trying to secure contracts from state governments worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Mr. Keating said nuclear testing had hurt French business and French standing in the region and "the French don't like it."

"This sort of admonition is the price that France is going to have to pay," he said.

In Bandar Seri Begawan, French and Australian ministers had a 45-minute meeting here late Wednesday to try to cool down the row but neither side budged on the fundamental issue of France's plans to conduct a series of nuclear weapons tests from September.

"How is France harming Australia in carrying out this limited series of tests so that it would justify the Australian government's agitation or its preaching," asked Michel Barnier, French minister-delegate for European affairs.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said: "What they have underestimated is that the end of the cold war created in people's minds a sense that the nuclear era was over. What this did was make people think about the threat all over again."

Mr. Barnier and Mr. Evans were in the Brunei capital for the annual ASEAN meetings with their main international partners.

Mr. Evans had led opposition to the French tests at the ASEAN meetings, causing the European Union (EU) delegation to disassociate itself from a communique on security issues which urged an immediate end to all nuclear weapons testing.

Earlier Wednesday, Mr. Evans told reporters that Australia had no plans to follow France's example and recall its ambassador from Paris, and he said Canberra wanted to "keep open lines of communication."

Mr. Barnier said his meeting with Mr. Evans was "cordial and very frank," using a term which usually indicates sharp differences of opinion. "We put everything on the table in a cordial and almost friendly fashion."

Mr. Evans described the meeting as an "interesting" one and said: "We understand all the justifications, but when one acknowledges everything that can be said in favour of the decision, it is still a very bad decision."

Oil Minister Hisham Nazer will be replaced by the president and chief executive of the giant petroleum company Saudi Aramco, Ali Bin Ibrahim Al Numeini, according to a royal decree. The finance and planning minister, Mohammad Abalkhalil, also lost his job.

No reasons were given for the changes and there had been no public signs of policy disputes between the ousted ministers and the king.

However, Saudi Arabia's oil-based economy has encountered difficulties since the 1991 Gulf war, which has cost the kingdom tens of billions of dollars.

Also, low oil prices in recent years reduced revenues in a land that was flush with cash throughout the 1980s.

The move came as part of a cabinet reshuffle that had been widely expected, but its scope took observers by surprise.

A former commerce minister, Suleiman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Sulaimi was named as the

new minister for finance and national economy, while Abdul Wahab Bin Abdul Salam Al Attar was named minister of planning.

Three brothers of King Fahd retained their posts: Crown Prince Abdullah as first deputy prime minister, Prince Sultan as second deputy prime minister and defence minister, Prince Nayef as interior minister — and Prince Saud Al Faisal, the king's nephew, as foreign minister.

Prince Sultan is the world's longest serving minister.

Following is the list of the new cabinet:

— Head of state and prime minister: King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz (unchanged).

— Crown prince, first deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard: Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz (unchanged).

— Second deputy prime minister and defence minister: Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz (unchanged).

— Minister of public works and housing: Prince Mutaib Ibn Abdulaziz (unchanged).

— Minister of interior: Prince Nayef Ibn Abdulaziz (unchanged).

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SETTLERS CLASH WITH POLICE: A Jewish settler resists Israeli police as they try to evacuate him from a West Bank hill, overlooking the Palestinian village of El Khader, where some 150 settlers spent the night before being evicted early Wednesday (AFP photo)



SETTLERS CLASH WITH POLICE: A Jewish settler resists Israeli police as they try to evacuate him from a West Bank hill, overlooking the Palestinian village of El Khader, where some 150 settlers spent the night before being evicted early Wednesday (AFP photo)

King Fahd introduces major reshuffle

RIYADH (AP) — King Fahd ousted his veteran oil and finance ministers Wednesday in Saudi Arabia's most significant leadership shakeup since he came to power in 1982.

Oil Minister Hisham Nazer will be replaced by the president and chief executive of the giant petroleum company Saudi Aramco, Ali Bin Ibrahim Al Numeini, according to a royal decree. The finance and planning minister, Mohammad Abalkhalil, also lost his job.

No reasons were given for the changes and there had been no public signs of policy disputes between the ousted ministers and the king.

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Argentina agog over UFO

SAN CARLOS DE BARILOCHE (AFP) — Argentina was nervously watching the skies Tuesday a day after an airliner narrowly missed hitting a UFO which darted in its path.

Jorge Polanco was piloting an Aerolineas Argentinas jet headed for this southwest winter resort town at around midnight Monday when he was forced to pull the plane up short to avoid what witnesses described as a "spaceship."

"As I was making the final approach, I suddenly saw in front of the plane a white light which was bearing right down on us really fast before it halted about 100 metres away," he said.

He said that as he frantically manoeuvred his plane, which was carrying 103 passengers, the UFO took a bizarre turn so that it could follow the airliner and flew in tandem with it for about 100 metres.

Air Force Major Jorge Oviedo said he and several others also witnessed the UFO and that there was a simultaneous power outage throughout the entire city.

The pilot said he was forced to pull up when the runway lights went out and that the flying object about the size of a jetliner with two green lights and a flashing orange light, "changed colours," followed him for a little while longer and then took off at "an unnatural speed."

Officials were investigating the sighting.

Astronomers track comet

CAPE TOWN (R) — South African astronomers are tracking a newly-discovered comet that could become the brightest object in the night sky.

The comet, discovered last week by two American astronomers, is still low on the horizon in the northern hemisphere, but passes directly over South Africa, giving scientists scanning southern skies a better view.

"We took the first picture from South Africa last night, it was really quite bright, brighter than you would expect at that distance," Patricia Whitelock of the South African Astronomical Observatory said Wednesday.

Ms. Whitelock dismissed as speculation reports that the comet might come close to Earth, or even threaten the planet. "It's a bit soon to predict, we will have a better idea in a week. Comets are unpredictable, that's what makes them so much fun," she said.

She said the Hale-Bopp comet, named after American amateur astronomers Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp who detected it on July 23, was about 1,000 million kilometres from Earth.

Michelangelo's David ruled not obscene

HONG KONG (R) — A Hong Kong judge ruled Tuesday that Michelangelo's David is not obscene. The High Court decision resulted from a case brought by an English-language newspaper, the Eastern Express, which sought to quash a ruling by the colony's Obscene Articles Tribunal that a picture of the statue was obscene.

The paper's editor, Michael Chugani, said the judge declared no jurist would find the statue of a nude David indecent and referred the case to the tribunal for a ruling.

Jailbirds raise a stink at Loos Prison

LOOS-LES-LILLE, France (AFP) — Suffering the twin effects of prison overcrowding and a recent heat-wave, 100 prisoners at Loos in northern France late Tuesday refused to return to their cells unless they were allowed more frequent showers.

With temperatures well over 30k (90s Fahrenheit) for several weeks, the smell inside the prison has started to become overwhelming, the prisoners complained. Returning from their evening meal, 100 of the 1,100 inmates at the lock-up said enough was enough and staged a two-hour sit-down protest before being forced into the cells by a squad of some 40 police, officials said.

The facility was built for 500 inmates but now houses over double that number. However, while the protest might have brought some temporary relief, hard-nosed prison officials insisted they could do nothing on the main complaint.

Iranian opposition slams polls restrictions in Iran

TEHRAN (Agencies) — An opposition group protested Wednesday over growing restrictions in running for parliament and the state's "interference" in next year's elections.

The Liberation Movement of Iran (LMI), one of only a few opposition groups to be tolerated in the Islamic republic, criticised in a letter faxed to AFP the "rising and illegal interference" of a supervisory council.

Parliament last month granted extra powers to the Council of Guardians, a legislative body dominated by religious conservatives, to oversee the election process for the March 8 polls.

The council can now screen candidates more thoroughly and control the polling process, which previously was supervised solely by the interior ministry.

The new powers granted to the council could risk alienating a wide spectrum of voters, especially supporters of the liberals and radical Islamic groups.

"No institution has the right to intervene in the election process and no one can prevent people from voting for their preferred candidates," said the letter signed by 122 political figures.

The group urged the council to step back and let the LMI, headed by former foreign minister Ibrahim Yazdi, be allowed to play a formal role in Iran's political life and is barred from running candidates in elections.

Islamic radicals, sidelined by conservatives in the last parliamentary elections in 1992, have also charged the new regulations were unfair.

The powerful Islamic Clerical Council that reviews laws passed by Iran's parliament also rejected the new election law requiring parliamentary candidates to have a university degree, the Iranian News agency IRNA said.

It said the Guardian Council ruled that the law, requiring candidates to be university or Islamic theology school graduates, to be against the Iranian constitution.

Christopher tries to ease ASEAN concerns with China pledge

BANDAR SERI BEGAAN (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher tried to reassure Asian allies Wednesday that Washington wants to resolve its differences with China and maintain its position in the region.

"Although we may have differences, neither the United States nor China can afford the luxury of walking away from our responsibility to manage them," Mr. Christopher told a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Brunei.

He was speaking after talks late Tuesday with his counterpart Qian Qichen in which the two sides took their first tentative steps towards patching up a rift over Taiwan and China's arrest of American human rights activist.

Mr. Christopher told Mr. Qian that the United States would stick to its "one-China policy" and would not maintain any official contacts with Beijing's rival government in Taiwan.

Relations sunk to a low after Washington approved a private visit to the United States by Taiwan's President Lee Teng-Hui, an act that Beijing believes violated three Sino-U.S. agreements.

China said after the talks that it welcomed Mr. Christopher's statements on Taiwan but that it believes U.S. deeds were more important than their words.

Washington has been angered by the detention of Harry Hu, a human rights activist arrested in China in June but Beijing has refused release him saying legal procedures must take their course.

The rows have worried some Asian countries who have relied on the relationship between China and the United States as an anchor for peace in the region.

"The U.S.-China relationship is fundamental," an ASEAN diplomat said before the Qian-Christopher talks. "The current situation is much worse than we anticipated."

Even though most of the ASEAN countries have hosted "vacation diplomacy" visits by Mr. Lee, diplomats said they have been dismayed by the U.S. decision to allow Taiwan's president to visit his old university because of the strains it has produced.

A U.S. official said that following the meeting with Mr. Qian the deterioration of relations "has now bottomed out" and that Washington was confident it could be put on track again.

"The United States continues to believe that a strong, stable open and prosperous China can be a strong partner and a responsible leader of the international community," Mr. Christopher said in his speech.

But in an apparent caution, he added that "China's economic development and military posture will inevitably have a major impact on the perceptions and actions of other nations."

China reassured many of its neighbours here by promising to resolve territorial disputes in the Spratlys on the basis of international law and negotiations.

In around Jerusalem an Israeli army spokesman confirmed the raid and said pilots carried out a pinpoint raid before returning safely to their base.

Police said six more planes provided cover for the raid in a sector where the Syrian army has many troops and anti-aircraft guns.

Black plumes of smoke rose from the labyrinth of caves at the foot of the hill-top village of Sultan Yacoub, causing panic among the 6,000 inhabitants.

The wounded Palestinian fighters were taken by ambulance to hospital at Jib Janin, south of Sultan Yacoub, while members of the radical group prevented journalists from entering the caves.

"It's dangerous to go in there, there are time-bombs which are in danger of going off at any moment," said Ahmad, a guard brandishing a Kalashnikov.

However, a burned-out jeep was visible from outside the base. Fires started by the rocket explosions were quickly brought under control by the group.

Israel attacks PFLP-GC base in Lebanon